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Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** inspected the damages caused by the floods to the crops at Thirunaraiyur in Cuddalore District, on 08.12.2020.

'Tamil Nadu stands at the forefront in safeguarding the welfare of our armed forces'

Message of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** on the occasion of Flag Day *(English Translation)*

Every year, we observe December 7 as Flag Day to express our gratitude to the great sense of sacrifice and duty of our Armed Forces engaged in protecting the country's sovereignty. While we wholeheartedly applaud on this day, the sacrifice and service of the countless soldiers who have sustained injuries and laid down their lives in war, we are duty-bound to help them in all ways.

Tamil Nadu has the unique and great honour of being at the forefront in safeguarding the welfare of the families of the personnel of the three forces who are engaged in the great task of protecting the hard won independence of the country.

To protect the interests of the personnel of the armed forces and those of ex-servicemen, the Government of Tamil Nadu that functions on the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is providing enhanced ex-gratia amount and a job on compassionate grounds to their heirs. Between 2011 and 2020, 3,387 ex-servicemen have been given jobs in various posts through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. Many other welfare schemes are also implemented like enhanced scholarship for the children of ex-servicemen in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, increased medical allowance for ex-servicemen and their dependents and job opportunities to ex-servicemen through Tamil Nadu Ex-servicemen's Corporation.

While greeting all the personnel of the armed forces and ex-servicemen on this day, I affectionately request all of you to donate liberally to the Flag Day Fund by way of glorifying the selfless service of the personnel of our armed forces and exhibiting our patriotism.

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"Our Government will steadfastly continue to provide resources for even financially poor students to get medical education; it will render them all the help that is needed in this regard."

- Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** handed over MBBS seat admission letters, stethoscopes and lab coats to Government school students who had cleared NEET and had been selected for joining the course under the 7.5% preferential allotment of seats in MBBS/BDS course at a function held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on 18.11.2020.

Students overwhelmed by the Government's Gesture

Emotional scenes as Hon'ble Chief Minister hands over medical college admission letters to qualifying Government school students

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, after handing over admission letters to Government School students, who had qualified under the 7.5 pre cent preferential allotment of seats in MBBS course in Tamil Nadu after passing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on 18.11.2020. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr C.Vijayabaskar, Respected Chief Secretary to Government Thiru. K.Shanmugam, Respected Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble MLAs, former MPs, medical personnel, future doctors and their parents, elders and ladies. At the outset I extend a warm welcome to all of you.

I extend my congratulations to Government school students who are participating in

counselling with the dream of becoming doctors as well as their parents who have assembled here to witness the achievement of their child with pride.

This day is indeed a day of great happiness in my life. It is a golden day in the history of Tamil Nadu. This day is a day that has created a turning point in the lives of Government school students. As a former Government school student myself, this day is a day that gives me the utmost satisfaction. That this will continue every year is a matter of immense joy not only to me but also to all of us.

Hon'ble Amma had opposed the NEET examination in principle; Hon'ble Amma's Government too opposes it.

I have written several letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and met him personally requesting him to give exemption to Tamil Nadu from the NEET examination. Apart from that the Government has been organizing a series of legal battles in courts. Despite that, NEET examinations are conducted as per the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. After the introduction of NEET examination, in the past three years the number of poor students joining the medical colleges has come down.

Despite being intelligent, Government school students did not have enough resources to face the NEET examinations and even if they qualified in the test by competing with well placed students, there was the situation that they could not score high marks.

In Tamil Nadu, the total number of students studying in 12th Standard is 8,41,251. Of this, 41 per cent, that is 3,44,485 students, study in the 3,054 Government Higher Secondary Schools. Last year, only six students from the Government Higher Secondary Schools were selected to study medicine. I made up my mind to change this situation as only six students from 41 per cent of the total schools

got an opportunity to study the medical course. Based on our thinking that this situation should change, we brought this law, allotting 7.5 per cent preferential allotment for Government school students.

In this connection, I announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 in May last year, that for the benefit of Government school students and to make their medical college dream a reality, a law would be enacted to give priority in medical admission to Government school students who qualify in the NEET examination. To implement the law in the first phase, the Government constituted a Commission under the chairmanship of Justice Thiru. P. Kalaiyarasan. Based on the recommendation of the Commission, my announcement crossed many hurdles and became law and the medical dream of poor and downtrodden Government school students has become a reality.

Whatever may be the identity of your family now, in future your family will be identified as doctor's family. The Act reserving 7.5 per cent of seats for Government school students received the Hon'ble Governor's assent on 30.10.2020.

There are about 26 Government medical colleges, 15 self-financing colleges, two Government dental colleges and 18 self-financing dental colleges in the State.

The total intake of medical college students, which was 1,945 in 2,011, increased to 3,060 seats in 2017 due to Hon'ble Amma's strong efforts. Due to the efforts of Hon'ble Amma's Government, it has further risen to 3,650. It is a record achievement for Hon'ble Amma's Government that 11 new medical Colleges have been started in Tamil Nadu in a year.

Due to this, 1,650 new seats will be created from the academic year 2021-2022. So totally, 1,990 new seats have been created by Hon'ble Amma's Government since I took over as Chief Minister till the next academic year. When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over as the Chief Minister in 2011 the intake of students in medical colleges was only 1,945 students. But after I took over as Chief Minister, till the next academic year, that is 2021-2022, an additional 1,990 medical seats would be created. I consider this a historic achievement. This shows how much Hon'ble Amma's Government has worked for creating these additional seats.

Two hundred and twenty-seven seats through Government Medical Colleges and 86 seats through self-financing colleges, totally 313 seats under 7.5 per cent preferential allotment, have been allotted for Government school students who cleared the NEET examination. As I said earlier, last year only six students from Government schools got medical seats. But this year 313 seats were cornered by Government school students.

Similarly, 12 students will get admission in the Government Dental Colleges and 80 students in Self-financing Dental Colleges. That is, students from Government schools will get a total of 92 seats from the current academic year in the BDS course. I am happy to inform you that in view of the current reservation of 7.5 per cent preferential allotment in the medical and dental colleges, students from Government schools will get 405 seats in both the medical colleges and dental colleges in the State from the current academic year.

Again, considering the poor economic and financial conditions of the students from Government Schools, Corporation Schools, Municipality Schools, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools, Kallar Reclamation Schools and Forest Department

Schools, to avoid the financial burden of educational fees and other expenses, I have issued orders to sanction Post-Matric Scholarship to these students.

The Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare mentioned in his speech that none of the Opposition Leaders had raised their voice for the poor Government school students. There was no representation from the public also. Of the total number of students in higher secondary schools, 41 per cent are from Government schools. As I mentioned earlier, out of the 3,44,485 students studying in Government schools, only six got admission in medical colleges in the last financial year. This means that 41 per cent of the students are denied admission in medical colleges. The Government introspected on this and based on that only, the present 7.5 per cent preferential allotment for Government School students was introduced. When these students get an opportunity for joining the medical colleges they will definitely provide medical services to the poor. Since they know the difficulties of the poor people, they will provide the necessary medical assistance when they become doctors. Based on this reasoning, the Government has made their dream of becoming doctors a reality.

I have made the announcement that areas having a large concentration of poor people will be identified by the Government to set up mini clinics. We have announced the scheme to provide quality medical services to poor people. Over 50 per cent of people in the country and in Tamil Nadu are not getting proper medical care. Our announcement will help provide medical assistance near their residence.

Some of the girl and boy students from Government schools could not control their tears while expressing their experience. A labourer gave expression to his emotions; he was in tears when he said that he had been on tenterhooks on whether his daughter would get admission in medical college and she had got admission through the Government's internal reservation. Hon'ble Amma's Government will continue to provide facilities to poor students to enable them achieve their dream of becoming doctors. As these people come from lower strata of society, I hope they will serve the poor people with dedication.

As informed by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, I also had my primary and high school education in Government schools only. The Government has made many provisions in Government schools for the poor students to realize their dream of becoming doctors. Once again, I express my congratulations and good wishes to the students who have been selected. Many students and parents have come from far off places. I request them to reach their homes safely.

I thank Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar for laying the foundation for making this conselling successful, also the Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare Department and other Officials of the Health Department who co-operated with him.

7.5 per cent medical seats for Government school students who cleared NEET

ABSTRACT

Medical Education – Provision of 7.5% seats set apart on preferential basis to students who studied in State Government schools and have qualified in NEET for getting admission to Undergraduate courses of MBBS / BDS / Siddha / Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy Courses from the academic year 2020-2021 made applicable to the State quota seats in all Government Medical/Dental Colleges and to the seats allotted by the State Government in the Self Financing Medical / Dental Colleges and all courses for which NEET has been prescribed as an eligibility criteria.. - orders - issued.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MCA.1) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (Ms) No. 438

Dated: 29 .10.2020
சார்வரி வருடம்,
ஐப்பசி மாதம் 13–ம் நாள்
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு 2051

Read:

1. Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly No.005/2020, dated 21.03.2020.
2. G.O.(Ms) No.149, Health & Family Welfare (MCA1) Department, dated: 21.03.2020.
3. From Justice P. Kalaiyarasan (retired High Court Judge), Chairman, State official Language Commission & Chairman of the Commission (Reg. NEET), report dated 08.06.2020.
4. Opinion from the Learned Advocate General of Tamil Nadu, High Court of Madras, Chennai, dated 20.06.2020 and 14.07.2020.

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ORDER :

Under Rule 110, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made the following announcement on the Floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative assembly on 21.03.2020:-

"xxx அரசுப் பள்ளிகள், மாநகராட்சி பள்ளிகள், நகராட்சி பள்ளிகள், ஆதி திராவிடர், பழங்குடியினர் நலப் பள்ளிகள், கள்ளர் சீர்மரபினப் பள்ளிகள், வனத் துறை பள்ளிகள் ஆகிய பள்ளிகளில், 1 முதல் 12ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை பயின்று நீட் தேர்ச்சி பெற்ற மாணாக்கர்களுக்கு பிரத்யேகமாக ஒரு உள் ஒதுக்கீடு கொடுக்க வகை செய்யும் சிறப்புச் சட்டம் ஒன்றை இயற்ற வகை செய்ய ஏதுவாக தேவைப்படும் அனைத்து புள்ளி விவரங்களையும் தொகுத்து உரிய பரிந்துரையையும் தமிழ்நாடு அரசுக்கு வழங்க, ஓய்வு பெற்ற ஒரு உயர்நீதிமன்ற நீதிபதி தலைமையில், ஒரு ஆணையம் அமைக்கப்படும்.

xxx மேற்கூறிய பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் மருத்துவப் படிப்புகளில் குறைந்த அளவிலேயே சேர்வதற்கான காரணங்களை ஆராய்ந்து, அவர்களின் சமூக பொருளாதார நிலையினை மதிப்பீடு செய்து,

xxx தனது பரிந்துரையை ஒரு மாத காலத்திற்குள் இவ்வாணையம் அரசுக்கு சமர்ப்பிக்கும்"

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2. On and from the academic year 2017-18 admission to all medical educational institutions throughout the country at the under-graduate and post-graduate level is based on the marks obtained in the uniform entrance examination. Since then, admissions secured by the students who studied in Government Schools to M.B.B.S. course in the State, have become dismally poor. To assess and analyse the reasons for the lower number of Government school students getting admission to M.B.B.S. course and to suggest remedial measures, the Government constituted a Commission comprising of senior officials under the Chairmanship of Justice P. Kalaiyarasan (Retired High Court Judge). Further, the Commission in its finding has reported that the students of the Government schools are placed at a disadvantageous position as compared to their counterparts in private schools due to cognitive gap created by socio economic factors such as caste, wealth, parental occupation, parental education, gender, etc. and these psychological and socio economic barriers cannot be bridged by a few months of intensive coaching for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, even if provided for free. To bridge this gap, the Commission has recommended that ten percentage of seats for admission to M.B.B.S. course can be set apart on preferential basis to students who studied from Sixth Standard to Higher Secondary Course in State Government schools and who have qualified in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test.

3. The Commission has also recommended that the above reservation can be extended to all courses for which National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test has been prescribed as an eligibility criterion. It is evident from the Commission's report that there exists de facto inequalities between the Government school students and the private school students.

4. The Government, after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Commission, have decided to take affirmative action so as to bring about real equality between the students who studied in Government schools and in private schools, by giving preference to the students of the Government schools, who have qualified in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test in the admission to M.B.B.S, and other medical courses, for which the said Test is prescribed as the qualifying examination in the State.

5. In his letter third read above, the Chairman of the Commission submitted his report to the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 08.06.2020. The Commission offered the following conclusions and recommendations for consideration of the Government to enable students from the Government schools who have qualified in NEET to get admission to medical courses by providing a specific internal reservation by enacting a Special Act, as follows:-

(i) Not less than 10 percentage (10%) of seats in the admission to MBBS Course have to be set apart on preferential basis to the students who have studied from sixth to twelfth standard in the State Government schools (Table 1.2) and qualified in the NEET exam.

(ii) A Special Enactment has to be made providing horizontal reservation as proposed in the first (i) recommendation. Reservation as per law in force is to be followed.

(iii) Reservation to the Government school students in getting admission to MBBS Course has to be reviewed by the State Government after a period of 5 years from the date of implementation.

(iv) Above reservation can be extended to all courses for which NEET has been prescribed as an eligibility criterion.

6. A meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister on 08.06.2020 wherein it was decided among others to place the recommendations of the Commission before the Cabinet for its decision. Meetings of the Council of Ministers were held on 15.06.2020 and 14.07.2020 and after detailed discussion, the Cabinet resolved the following:-

a) to set apart seven and half percentage (7.5%) of seats in the admission to MBBS/BDS Courses on preferential basis to the students who have studied from sixth to twelfth standard in the State Government schools namely, School Education Department Schools including Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools, Adi-Dravidar Welfare Schools, Municipal / Corporation / Tribal Welfare Schools, Kallar reclamation BC / MBC / Differently-Abled Welfare / Forest / Social Defence (Borstal Schools) Department Schools and Residential-Access Schools, as indicated under Table 1.2 of the Justice P. Kalaiyarasan Commission Report and qualified in the NEET exam.

b) to make a Special Enactment by providing horizontal reservation as decided in the first recommendation.

c) to review the above reservation to the Government school students in getting admission to MBBS / BDS Courses by the Government after a period of 5 years from the date of implementation.

d) to extend the above reservation to all courses for which NEET has been prescribed as an eligibility criterion, since from the year 2019-2020, NEET has been made as a qualifying examination for courses under Indian Medicine viz., Siddha, Ayurvedha, Unani and Homoeopathy.

e) to make this reservation applicable to all Government Medical Colleges and to the seats allotted by the State Government in the Self Financing Medical Colleges under all disciplines.

f) to add the following explanation under the definition "Students studied in Government schools" in clause 2(d) of the draft Ordinance, for the purpose in view;

"**Explanation**.- For the purpose of this definition, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group who have studied upto eighth standard in a specified category school or an unaided school, as per clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (Central Act 35 of 2009) and studied all remaining standards up to Higher Secondary Course in a Government school and qualified in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, shall be deemed to be 'Students studied in Government Schools".

7. In his letters fourth read above, the Learned Advocate General, High Court of Madras has opined among others, as follows:-

"xxxx. In view of the law laid down by the Supreme Court, I am of the view that the reservation made for students who have studied in Government schools to the extent of 7.5% of the seats available in the Government quota is not violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution of India.

Subsequently, it was noted that there was another category of students who were obtaining admissions to private schools under Section 12 (1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 who also come from socially and educationally backward classes of people and the Government reimburses the fees fixed by the private schools. However, under the provisions of the above Act, the admission is made only in the first standard and the benefit of the Act is given only upto the end of the eighth standard. From the ninth standard onwards, the provisions of the Act cease to apply provided they join Government schools after the eighth standard and continue upto the twelth standard".

8. Based on the decision in para 6 above and the opinion of the Learned Advocate General of Tamil Nadu in para 7 above the State Legislative Assembly passed the Bill (L.A. Bill No.24 of 2020), to provide for preference in admission to undergraduate courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy for the students who studied in Government Schools and have qualified in NEET and has been sent for the approval of the Hon'ble Governor. Since the NEET-Under Graduate results have now been declared and the admission process has started, there is an urgency to decide on this issue and since the power to issue executive directions under Article 162 of the Constitution of India is co-extensive with legislative powers, pending decision of the Hon'ble Governor, the Government hereby has taken the following policy decisions and issue orders accordingly:-

(i) To set apart seven and a half percentage (7.5%) on preferential basis to the students who have studied from sixth to twelfth standard in the State Government schools in the admission to M.B.B.S., B.D.S., B.S.M.S., B.A.M.S., B.U.M.S. and B.H.M.S. courses and qualified in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test. The above horizontal reservation shall be provided in each category of vertical reservation followed in the State of Tamil Nadu within the 69% reservation from the academic year 2020-2021.

(ii) The "Government schools" mean and includes Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools, Adi-Dravidar Welfare Schools, Municipal / Corporation / Tribal Welfare Schools, Kallar reclamation BC / MBC / Differently-Abled Welfare / Forest / Social Defence (Borstal Schools) Department Schools and Residential - Access Schools. Further, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group who have studied upto eighth standard in a specified category school or an unaided school, as per clause (c) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and studied all remaining standards up to Higher Secondary Course in the Government school shall be deemed to be 'Students studied in Government Schools'.

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(iii) The above setting apart of seats on preferential basis is applicable to the State quota seats in all Government Medical/ Dental colleges and all courses for which NEET has been prescribed as an eligibility criteria. and to the seats allotted by the State Government in the Self Financing Medical/Dental Colleges, minority and non-minority and under all disciplines.

(iv) Students studied in Government schools shall also be entitled to compete for the Government seats, other than those set apart on preferential basis, along with the students who studied in private schools.

(v) Admission of students studied in Government schools on preferential basis shall be made by following the reservation as per the law in force.

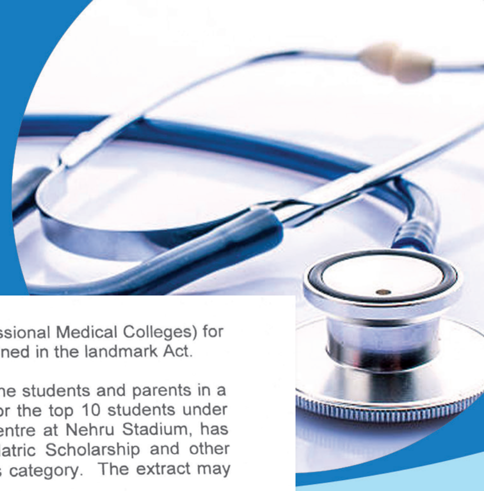
9. The Director of Medical Education, the Additional Director of Medical Education and the Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy are directed to take necessary action, accordingly.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

J. RADHAKRISHNAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at a function held at the Sivagangai District Collectorate on 04.12.2020, congratulated student Selvi Amirtham of Government Higher Secondary School, Sivagangai, who was selected for the MBBS Course under 7.5 per cent preferential allotment. The student showed the admission letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who in turn blessed her.

Rs. 16 Crore sanctioned for revolving fund to be operated by Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation to enable payment of all kinds of essential fees and hostel fees of students admitted to MBBS course through 7.5% preferential allotment



ABSTRACT

Medical Education – Sanction an amount of Rs.16.00 Crore for creating a Revolving Fund to be operated by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited to enable payment of all type of essential fee and hostel fee for the students who have got admission under the 7.5% preferential allotment of seats in MBBS / BDS Course - Administrative and Financial sanction accorded – Orders issued.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (H1) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms) No.496

Dated 30.11.2020.
சார்வ ரி, கார்த்திகை 15,
திருவள்ளுவ ர் ஆண்டு 2051

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms)No.438, Health and Family Welfare (MCA-1) Department, dated 29.10.2020.
2. Hon'ble Chief Minister's Announcement, dated 18.11.2020
3. Hon'ble Chief Minister's Announcement, dated 21.11.2020.
4. From the Director of Medical Education letter Ref.No.068574 / ME1 / 1 / 2020, dated 28.11.2020.

ORDER:

Under Rule 110, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made the following announcement on the Floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 21.03.2020:-

"xxx அரசுப் பள்ளிகள், மாநகராட்சி பள்ளிகள், நகராட்சி பள்ளிகள், ஆதிதிராவிடர், பழங்குடியினர் நலப் பள்ளிகள், கள்ளர் சீர்மரபினப் பள்ளிகள், வனத் துறை பள்ளிகள் ஆகிய பள்ளிகளில், 1 முதல் 12 ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை பயின்று நீட் தேர்ச்சி பெற்ற மாணாக்கர்களுக்கு பிரத்யேகமாக ஒரு உள் ஒதுக்கீடு கொடுக்க வகை செய்யும் சிறப்புச் சட்டம் ஒன்றை இயற்ற வகை செய்ய ஏதுவாக தேவைப்படும் அனைத்து புள்ளி விவரங்களையும் தொகுத்து உரிய பரிந்துரையையும் தமிழ்நாடு அரசுக்கு வழங்க, ஓய்வு பெற்ற ஒரு உயர்நீதிமன்ற நீதிபதி தலைமையில், ஒரு ஆணையம் அமைக்கப்படும்.

xxx மேற்கூறிய பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் மருத்துவப் படிப்புகளில் குறைந்த அளவிலேயே சேர்வதற்கான காரணங்களை ஆராய்ந்து, அவர்களின் சமூக பொருளாதார நிலையினை மதிப்பீடு செய்து,

xxx தனது பரிந்துரையை ஒரு மாத காலத்திற்குள் இவ்வாணையம் அரசுக்கு சமர்ப்பிக்கும்".

2. Based on the 110 announcement by Hon'ble Chief Minster a Committee was constituted under Retired High Court Justice Kalaiselvan to study and give a report on the challenges faced by students studying in Government School as per the terms of reference. The report was examined and approved by the State Cabinet and based on decisions of Cabinet, initially an ordinance was passed and then during the ensuing Assembly Session a bill was unanimously passed and enacted. After the first round of counselling this has enabled preferential allocation of initially 405 MBBS and BDS seats in Government in the State Quota (Both from Government Medical Colleges and Self Financing Professional Medical Colleges) for the students who studied in Government Schools as defined in the landmark Act.

3. The Hon'ble Chief Minister in his address to the students and parents in a function organised for distributing the allotment order for the top 10 students under this category, held on 18.11.2020 at the counselling centre at Nehru Stadium, has stated that arrangements would be made for Post Matric Scholarship and other assistance to the students getting admission under this category. The extract may be seen below:-

அரசுப் பள்ளிகள், மாநகராட்சி பள்ளிகள், நகராட்சி பள்ளிகள், ஆதிதிராவிடர், பழங்குடியினர் நலப் பள்ளிகள், கள்ளர் சீர்மரபினப் பள்ளிகள், வனத் துறை பள்ளிகள் ஆகிய மாணவர்களின் ஏழ்மை நிலை மற்றும் பொருளாதார சூழ்நிலையினை கருத்திற்கொண்டு, அவர்களுக்கு கல்வி கட்டணம் மற்றும் இதர செலவினங்களால் சுமை ஏதும் ஏற்படா வண்ணம், இச்செலவினங்களை வழங்குவதற்காக Post Matric கல்வி உதவித் தொகை மற்றும் இதர கல்வி உதவித் தொகை திட்டங்கள் மூலம் நடைமுறைப்படுத்த உரிய உத்தரவினை பிறப்பித்துள்ளேன்.

4. As a follow up Hon'ble Chief Minister has made an announcement on 21.11.2020 as follows:-

மருத்துவக் கல்லூரிகள் மற்றும் பல்மருத்துவ கல்லூரிகளில் சேர ஆணை பெற்றுள்ள அனைத்து அரசுப் பள்ளி மாணாக்கர்களின் கல்விக் கட்டணத்தை உதவித்தொகை (Scholarship) அனுமதி வரும் வரை காத்திராமல், உடனடியாக செலுத்தும் விதமாக, தமிழ்நாடு மருத்துவ சேவை கழகத்தில் ஒரு கழல் நிதியை உருவாக்க நான் உத்தரவிட்டுள்ளேன். அந்நிதியில் இருந்து மாணாக்கர்களுக்கான கல்வி, விடுதி கட்டணங்கள் போன்றவற்றை மாண்புமிகு அம்மாவின் அரசே நேரடியாக கல்லூரி நிர்வாகத்திற்கு செலுத்தும்.

5. To give effect to the above announcement, proposal were called for from the Selection Committee and the Director of Medical Education to state that, tentatively this would be the cost of fees and other charges which would be required, to be paid by the students of MBBS / BDS.

6. In the letter fourth read above, the Director of Medical Education has furnished the tentative cost of fees and other charges which would be required to be paid by the students of MBBS / BDS under the 7.5% preferential allotment of seats for the students who have studied in the Government Schools for the first year of MBBS / BDS Course is as follows:-

Particulars	First Year	No. of Students	Total Amount (Rs.)
Allotted to Government Medical / Dental Colleges			
MBBS	1,46,228/-	209	3,05,61,652/-
BDS	89,230/-	6	5,35,380/-
Total			**3,10,97,032/-**
Allotted to Self Finance Medical / Dental Colleges			
MBBS	8,42,000/-	104	8,75,68,000/-
BDS	4,98,000/-	80	3,98,40,000/-
Total			**12,74,08,000/-**
Grand Total			**15,85,05,032/-**

The Break-up details of the fees is as annexed to this Order

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7. The Government have examined the proposal of the Director of Medical Education and decided to accept it. Accordingly, the Government sanction a sum of Rs.16.00 Crore (Rupees sixteen Crore only) for creating a Revolving Fund to be operated by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited to enable payment of all type of essential fee and hostel fee for the students who have got admission under the 7.5% preferential allotment of seats in MBBS / BDS Course as annexed to this Government Order and separate action will be initiated to avail the benefits of eligible scholarship and educational assistance under various categories for eligible students from such categories and the amount so received will be used to partly replenish to Revolving Fund from the concerned Departments.

8. The expenditure sanctioned in para 7 above ,shall be debited to the following new head of account opened under D. No. 19-03:-

"2210 Medical and Public Health – 05 Medical Education Training and Research – 105 Allopathy – State's Expenditure KG Payment of all fees for the students admitted under the 7.5% preferential allotment of seats in MBBS/BDS course – 312 Scholarships and stipends 09 others.

IFHRMS (DPC 2210 05 105 KG 31209)
(OLD DPC : 2210 05 105 KG 1299)"

9. The Director of Medical Education is authorized to draw and disburse the amount sanctioned in para 7 above.

10. The Director of Medical Education is the Estimating, Reconciling and Controlling Authority for the above said new head of account.

11. The Pay and Accounts Officer / Treasury Officers concerned are directed to open the above new head of account in their books.

12. The expenditure sanctioned in para 7 above shall constitute an item of "New Service" and the approval of Legislature will be obtained in due course. Pending approval of the Legislature, the expenditure may be initially met by drawal of an advance from the Contingency Fund. The Director of Medical Education is directed to calculate the actual amount required for the period upto next Supplementary Estimates and apply for sanction of the same as advance from the Contingency Fund to Finance (BG-I) Department directly in Form "A" appended to the Tamil Nadu Contingency Fund Rules 1963 along with a copy of this order. Orders for sanction of an advance from the Contingency Fund will be issued from Finance (BG-I) Department. The Director of Medical Education is requested to send necessary explanatory notes to include the above expenditure in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2020-21 to Finance (BG-I/ Health-II) Department at the appropriate time without fail.

13. Initially the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited will be permitted to meet out the expenditure from the Personal Deposit Account and the same will be reimbursed later by release of Contingency Fund or after Supplementary Estimate.

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14. This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department vide its U.O.No.358/DS(B)/Fin(BG-II)/2020, dated 30.11.2020 and ASL No. 981(Nine hundred and eighty one).

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

J.RADHAKRISHNAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Annexure

To G.O.(Ms)No.496 , Health and Family Welfare (H1) Dept, dated 30 .11.2020.

	MBBS - GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGES	
S.No.	**Fee Details**	**First Year (in Rupees)**
1	Tuition fee	13610
2	Special fee	950
3	Examination fee	14000
	Hostel fee including mess fee	
4	Hostel fee (Per Year)	36800
5	Mess fee (Per Month)	66000
	Lump sum fee	
6	Books	10000
7	Basic materials like White coat, Stethoscope	3000
8	University Registration fees, Insurance, Misc	1868
	Grand Total	1,46,228
	MBBS - SELF FINANCING MEDICAL COLLEGES	
Sl.No	**Fee Details**	**1st Year (in Rupees)**
1	Tuition Fee	4,00,000
2	Admission Fee	---
3	Special Fee/ Development Fee	25,000
4	Examination Fee (As decided by University time to time	14,000
5	Hostel Fee(Including Mess Fee)	2,63,000
6	Books / Basic Materials	1,40,000
	Total	8,42,000

BDS - GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGES		
Sl.No	Fee Details	1st Year (in Rupees)
1	Tuition Fee	2,000
2	Exam Fee	6060
3	Special Fee/ Development Fee	950
4	Caution Deposit	1,000
5	Hostel Fee(Including Mess Fee)	77,620
6	Library Fee	1,000
7	Miscellaneous Fee	600
	Total	89,230

BDS - SELF FINANCING DENTAL COLLEGES		
Sl.No	Fee Details	1st Year (in Rupees)
1	Tuition Fee, Development Fee, Admission Fee, Transport Fee and Examination Fee	3,22,000
2	Hostel Fee(Including Mess Fee)	1,26,000
3	Lumpsum Fee, Dental Material, Books, record Note, Uniform, Doctor Coat and Tab	50,000
	Total	4,98,000

Details of Financial Support for Students selected for MBBS / BDS Course in the Academic Year 2020 - 21 under the 7.5% Reservation for Government School Quota

Course		Amount required for First Year / Student	Total Number of students	Total amount for 1 year (in Rupees)
MBBS	Government	1,46,228	209	3,05,61,652
	Self Financing	8,42,000	104	8,75,68,000
Grand total		9,88,228	313	11,81,29,652

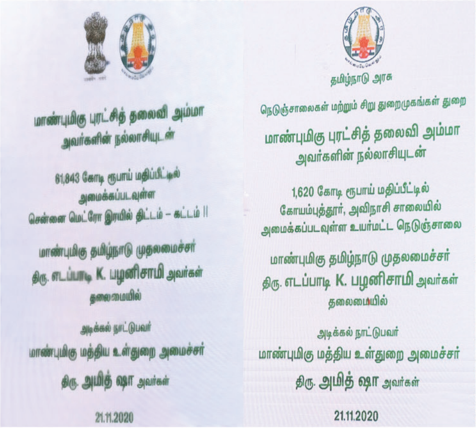
Course		Amount required for First Year / Student	Total Number of students	Total amount for 1 year (in Rupees)
BDS	Government	89,230	6	5,35,380
	Self Financing	4,98,000	80	3,98,40,000
Grand total		5,87,230	86	4,03,75,380

J.RADHAKRISHNAN,
Principal Secretary to Government.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** distributed admission letters to students of Government schools for the MBBS course for the academic year 2020-2021 at the medical counselling on 18.11.2020. These students who got through the NEET examinations got admission through Tamil Nadu Government's 7.5 % preferential allotment for Government school students.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister dedicates new reservoir, lays foundation for Metro Rail Project II

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in all fields and shines as a Numero Uno State in India



Speech by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the function in which the Hon'ble Union Home Minister **Thiru. Amit Shah** dedicated the new reservoir at Thervoykandigai to the nation and laid foundation stones for Chennai Metro Rail Project - II and various other schemes, at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 21.11.2020.

(English Translation)

Bowing before Hon'ble Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I warmly welcome Hon'ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah who is going to dedicate the the Thervoykandigai Reservoir to the people, and lay foundation stones for the Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase - II, a flyover on Avinashi Road in Coimbatore, a check dam in Nanjai Pugalur, expansion of Nandambakkam Trade Centre and Indian Oil Corporation schemes, totally costing Rs. 67,758 Crore.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Brother Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru.P.Dhanapal,Hon'bleMinisterofIndustries Thiru. M.C.Sampath, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble office-bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam and New Justice Party, Hon'ble MPs and MLAs, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru. K.Shanmugam and Principal Secretary of Industries Department, Thiru. Muruganandam, who is to propose the vote of thanks, officers of the Central and State Governments, Chairman of various Boards, former Ministers, elders and ladies,

At the outset I extend my warm welcome to all of you.

I am really happy to point out that Hon'ble Amma's Government, which has come in the path of Perarignar Anna, Ponmana Chemmal M.G.R and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is going ahead on the principles of Peace, Growth and Development, and has been implementing various welfare schemes for the benefit of the people of all sections of society. That is why Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront in all fields and shines as a Numero Uno State in the country.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in the construction of a system of tanks and in effective water management since the early Chola period.

Hon'ble Amma Government accorded top priority to water management and implemented Rain Water Harvesting as a people's movement.

Continuing her legacy, several schemes like Kudimaramathu, Check Dams etc., are being taken up in a big way across the State.

Sir, I am happy to inform you that under the 'Kudimaramathu' Scheme, 6,278 tanks and water bodies have been renovated at a cost of Rs. 1,433 Crore with people's participation. Further, 5,186 minor irrigation tanks and 25,987 ponds and Ooranies have also been renovated at a total cost of Rs. 805 Crore by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

This has largely augmented our water storage capacity.

To ramp up water conservation efforts and increase the storage capacity of irrigation tanks and water bodies, Hon'ble Amma's Government launched the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission in 2019.

Moreover, to prevent rain water from draining into the sea and to ensure its availability for drinking water purposes, agriculture needs and ground water recharge, I have sanctioned Rs. 1,000 Crore for construction of check dams across rivers and streams over a period of three years.

In the last two years, 160 check dams have been constructed by the Public Works Department and many more are being constructed.

Further, 42,635 small check dams were constructed at a cost of Rs. 959 Crore by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

These initiatives yielded tremendous results, with significant increase in ground water level and water storage, thereby increasing crop coverage area.

The widespread rains during the South West and the current North East Monsoon periods have greatly improved the storage level in all water bodies which had been renovated in the last four years.

Due to meticulous planning in the desilting of channels in the Delta areas after I opened the shutters of Mettur Dam for Kuruvai cultivation on June 12, water reached the tail-end areas 10 days earlier than usual.

This has a major impact wherein the delta farmers have brought 4.12 Lakh acres under cultivation breaking a 30-year record.

Due to this, Tamil Nadu has achieved a record procurement of 32 Lakh MT of paddy.

It was Hon'ble Amma who implemented the New Veeranam Scheme to quench the thirst of the people of Chennai. Now, at a cost of Rs. 380 Crore, Hon'ble Amma's Government is realizing her vision of implementing the Kannankottai Thervoykandigai Reservoir which she had planned to fulfill the water needs of the people of Chennai.

I thank the Hon'ble Union Home Minister for dedicating the scheme to the people of Chennai.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is the only Government which has been implementing many water resource schemes including the dream schemes of the Tamil Nadu people, Cauvery-Gundar link, Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme, Mettur Dam Sarabanga Scheme and Adhanur-Kumaramangalam scheme across the Kollidam.

Due to implementation of Rain Water Harvesting Schemes and Water Management Schemes, the ground-water level in the State has

considerably increased. In the coming monsoon season, steps have been taken to increase the ground water level still further.

These initiatives in Water Management and Conservation of Tamil Nadu were recognized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti of Government of India and recently Tamil Nadu was awarded the first place in the country for the year 2019-2020.

On this occasion, foundation stone has been laid for a dam 1,140 metres long and three metres high at a cost of Rs. 406 Crore to meet the long-pending demand of the people of Karur and Namakkal Districts. This dam will save 0.8 tmc water besides providing irrigation facilities to 4,041 acres of land.

Respected Sir, I request you to consider extending necessary support for speedy approval of important projects initiated by the State Government like 'Nadanthai Vazhi Cauvery', Godavari-Cauvery river link and Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river link, which are pending approval of the Central Government.

In this regard, I am submitting a Memorandum to you, Sir.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has implemented various schemes through various Departments to improve the standard of Chennai city and put it on par with international standards. The Government of Tamil Nadu, which is following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is keen on expediting the Chennai Metro Rail Project to fulfill the visions of Hon'ble Amma.

As the existing Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-I is not sufficient to meet the growing demands of the burgeoning traffic, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has decided to implement Phase-II of the project at a cost of Rs. 61,843 Crore to a length of 118.90 km. Phase II consists of a route from Madhavaram to SIPCOT, the second route from the Lighthouse to Poonamallee bypass road and the third route from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur via Alandur.

For all the above routes foreign funds have been assured.

Phase - I of Chennai Metro Rail Project Ltd., has been a successful joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu with equal equity participation.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Union Home Minister to facilitate sanction of Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project, at an estimated cost of Rs. 61,843 Crore under 50:50 Joint venture partnership basis between the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is keen on improving the standard of roads in the State and has been implementing various schemes to this end. Foundation stone has been laid by the Hon'ble Union Home Minister for a flyover from Goldwins in Avinashi Road to Uppilipalayam. This road is the most important road in Coimbatore. On this stretch, there are many schools, colleges, hospitals, and there is the airport. This road is always affected by congestion. The proposed Rs. 1,621 Crore flyover for which foundation stone has been laid, will decongest traffic to a great extent.

Sir, Tamil Nadu is the most favoured destination for investments in the county. I am happy to inform you that my Government has signed 55 MoUs in the current financial year with an investment Rs.40,719 Crore providing employment for over 65,000 people.

The fact that this was achieved during the COVID pandemic makes it extra special.

To retrieve the economy from the COVID pandemic and to protect the livelihood of people of Tamil Nadu, the Government of Tamil Nadu was very cautious and implemented the lock down carefully. Through the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation we introduced the novel COVID Relief and Upliftment Scheme (CORUS) and sanctioned Rs.138 Crore to 1,202 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as unsecured loans.

I must congratulate and thank the Central Government for kick-starting the national economic recovery through multiple stimulus packages.

Tamil Nadu benefited immensely from the steps taken by the Government of India for the post-Covid economic recovery. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Union Home Minister that Tamil Nadu stands second in the country in providing assistance under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. The Public Sector Banks have disbursed loans amounting to Rs.6,980 Crore so far under the scheme.

Indian Oil Corporation's POL terminal, Integrated Lube Complex and captive jetty at Kamarajar Port at a cost of Rs 3,200 Crore will contribute significantly to the energy security of the State.

The expansion of the Chennai Trade Centre at a cost of Rs.309 Crore will add over 20.000 sq.metres of additional convention space to Chennai City and will help position the city as a destination of global conventions and conferences.

It will also contribute towards business development and export promotion.

At this juncture, I would like to inform you that various measures were taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government in successfully controlling the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of 7,66,677 persons tested positive as on date, only 13,400 are active cases in the State.

The positive cases per day have come down drastically from about 6,000 per day to less than 1,600 cases now.

It is because of our proactive steps that the Hon'ble Prime Minister commended the efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Everyone should continue to work for the continuance of the present situation and for complete prevention of COVID cases.

I extend my hearty thanks to all those who worked hard for the completion of the schemes which were declared open today and for the schemes for which foundation stones have been laid today (21.11.2020).

As mentioned by the Hon'ble Deputy Co-ordinator of the party, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, with the co-operation of the people, has been governing the country extremely well during these difficult and challenging times of the Corona pandemic. We see that even super power countries are appreciative of his governance. The Hon'ble Prime Minister is working hard day and night to control the Corona virus pandemic. At this juncture, I would like to inform you that the Government of Tamil Nadu will always stand with him.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah is providing active support to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in successfully implementing Hon'ble Prime Minister's schemes. I would state that if the country is developing on par with the super powers it is due to the combined efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah. At this juncture, I would like to state that the political front formed during the Parliament elections will continue.

The 10-year rule of the AIADMK in the State has given various welfare schemes to the people of Tamil Nadu. It has won various awards at the national level. I am confident that the current front will continue and will win the majority of seats in the coming Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Elections of 2021 and set up AIADMK rule again in the State.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I thank the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah for having accepted our invitation and graced this function. I thank all those who worked for the success of the function.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Tamil Nadu seeks early approval for Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II project

Text of the D.O. letter dated 21.11.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** addressed to Hon'ble Union Home Minister, **Thiru. Amit Shah**.

Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-I covering 45 km is fully operational from 10.02.2019. It was an honour for the State of Tamil Nadu that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the final 10 km stretch.

The Phase-I Extension of Chennai Metro Rail Project covering 9 km is under construction and is expected to be commissioned in January 2021.

The Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project with a total length of 118.9 km with estimated completion cost of Rs.61,843 Crore has been approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government of India has suggested to provide only 10% cost as grant instead of providing 15% as share capital. Since the contribution of Government of India as grant will affect the present share holding pattern and such grant is also revenue expenditure, we have been requesting Government of India to consider the support as share capital, which is taken as capital expenditure with a sharing pattern of 50:50 between Centre and State.

Therefore, I request your kind intervention for early approval of the project with participation of Government of India in Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II Project with 50:50 Equity Sharing Model, as was done for Phase-I Project.

I also request you to kindly get the revised cost of Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I Project, which is now under examination by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned as early as possible.

Hon’ble Chief Minister writes to Hon’ble Union Home Minister seeking sanction for three vital water resource projects

Text of the D.O. letter dated 21.11.2020 of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** addressed to Hon’ble Union Home Minister, **Thiru. Amit Shah**.

I invite your kind attention to the following three requests, which are very essential for the welfare of the people and the agriculturists of Tamil Nadu.

(1) Godavari - Cauvery Linkage

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Godavari – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) Link as Phase - I project of the Peninsular Rivers linkage and sent it to the States concerned, for their comments during March, 2019.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had justified the need to rework the link so as to terminate it in the River Cauvery at Kattalai Barrage, instead of Grand Anicut and had sent its comments to NWDA in September, 2019 and February, 2020. This request of Tamil Nadu is under the consideration of NWDA.

I have written letters to Hon’ble Prime Minister, your goodself and Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to provide atleast 200 TMC ft. of water to Tamil Nadu from this Phase – I project and ultimately 300 TMC ft. of water in Phase – II, when River Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari.

I request you to take up the matter once again with the Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to expedite the DPR for this project and take up the work on priority basis, so that the water needs of southern States could be fulfilled while mitigating the problem of floods in Godavari.

(2) Cauvery – Gundar Linkage

Cauvery-Gundar linkage is a part of the Godavari – Cauvery linkage mentioned above. This diversion of surplus flow to the drought affected part of Tamil Nadu will benefit several Districts in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has already constructed a Barrage at Mayanur across Cauvery river at a cost of about Rs.255 Crore in anticipation of this National Project.

The excess flood water of Cauvery River during surplus years can be diverted upto Gundar and therefore the Cauvery – Gundar link canal is of utmost importance to the State.

NWDA has prepared a draft DPR for Cauvery (Kattalai) – Gundar Project at an estimated cost of Rs.8,277 Crore. Godavari-Cauvery linkage will enhance the utility of this project wherein surplus Godavari water can be diverted into this canal and will benefit areas up to Gundar in Virudhunagar District.

Diverting flood water from River Cauvery upto Gundar, would improve the recharge of ground water, meeting drinking water needs, stabilisation of ayacuts in the drought prone areas in the Districts of Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi.

Considering the importance of this scheme, I had announced that Cauvery (Kattalai) – Gundar Project would be implemented during the current year itself. This scheme is proposed to be executed in three phases and acquisition of land for the project has already begun.

I had written to Hon'ble Prime Minister, your goodself and Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, for implementation of the Cauvery (Kattalai) – Gundar Link Project and sought sanction and funding assistance from the Government of India for this important project.

This project will have a lasting impact on the stabilisation of ayacut in delta area and will confer lasting benefits to the people of Tamil Nadu. Hence, I request this project to be considered as a project of National importance. Though the Ministry of Water Resources has not favourably responded to this project, I request you to direct the Ministry of Water Resources to reconsider the decision in view of its greater impact on vast area of Tamil Nadu.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to take up the matter with the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti once again to consider the project and sanction it on a priority basis and provide financial assistance.

(3) Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery – Rejuvenation of Cauvery and its Tributaries

The much acclaimed "Namami Gange", an Integrated Conservation Mission; Flagship Programme taken up by Hon'ble Prime Minister to abate the river pollution and rejuvenate River Ganga, has been a driving force to initiate rejuvenation of the River Cauvery.

The river Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu and considered as one of the "Sacred river of South India". It is also known as "Ganges of South".

I made an announcement that river Cauvery would be rehabilitated and pollution in the river would be abated on the lines of "Namami Gange" Project.

The objectives of the project is to conserve, rejuvenate and augment the water resources and to effectively stop sewage and industrial effluents from polluting the river Cauvery, by taking up several works like construction of ground water recharge structures; construction of Barrages and artificial recharge; sewage treatment plants; management of solid and liquid waste generated from domestic and commercial sources; upgradation and modernisation of public amenities; river surface cleaning; Bio-diversity conservation and aforestation, etc.

Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared and the project cost is estimated to be Rs.10,700 Crore. Since, the State Government cannot execute such a major project, on its own, financial assistance from the Government of India is required.

I request you to take up this matter with the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to consider this project as a Special Project like 'Namami Gange' and to accord sanction and extend financial assistance.

I request you to use your good offices and instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to provide sanction to these projects at the earliest.

Central support sought for Tamil Nadu's Mega Industry and Textile Parks

Text of the D.O.letter dated 21.11.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** addressed to Hon'ble Union Home Minister, **Thiru. Amit Shah**.

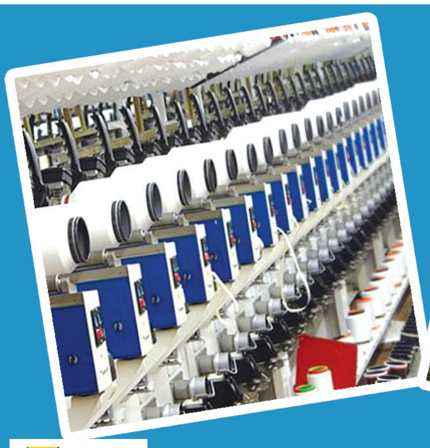
I would like to bring to your kind attention, three major infrastructure projects proposed by the Government of Tamil Nadu to Government of India which will fulfill the vision of AtmaNirbhar of Hon'ble Prime Minister and make India self reliant.

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has proposed to set up a Mega Textile Industry Parks in the country in partnership with the States.

Government of Tamil Nadu, being a leading State in the manufacture of Textiles has conveyed its willingness to set up Mega Textile Parks and has identified two sites, one in Dharmapuri District and another in Virudhunagar District. Adequate land and necessary infrastructure are available in the above sites.

Similarly, the State has proposed to set up a Bulk Drug Park and Medical Devices Park near Chennai. Necessary proposals have been sent to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India. Industry Partners and Investors have shown keen interest to invest in these parks in Tamil Nadu.

I request your good offices to instruct the Ministers concerned for providing technical and financial support to Government of Tamil Nadu for early establishment of these Parks in my State.



Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates work for historic project for round-the-clock water supply to Madurai

Speech delivered by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, after laying foundation stone for various schemes and declaring open completed schemes at a Government function in the Madurai District Collectorate on 04.12.2020. *(English Translation)*.

Bowing before the deities Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. and Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I welcome all those who have come for this special function.

On this day, Hon'ble Amma's Government has made a long-felt dream of the people of Madurai into a reality. Following a demand made by the people of Madurai, MLAs and Hon'ble Ministers to provide 24-hours protected drinking water supply to the ever-increasing Madurai population, Hon'ble Amma's Government has today (04.12.2020) laid a foundation stone for Rs.1,296 Crore scheme for bringing water from the Lower Camp of the Mullai Periyar dam to the city. This is a historic special scheme. Hon'ble Amma's Government is keen on implementing all the announced schemes immediately and thereby occupying a place in the hearts of the people.

Throughout Tamil Nadu, 76 Combined Water Supply Schemes are in various stages of completion. When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over as the Chief Minister of the State in the year 2011, about 4,900 MLD water was being supplied to people. After the demise of Amma, due to various measures taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government, 7,600 MLD of water is being supplied throughout Tamil Nadu. During the last one-and-a-half years, 2,700 MLD of water have been added for supply without any interruption. In the Indian sub-continent, Tamil Nadu is the only State which has given so much drinking water to the people.

As already mentioned by me, when the ongoing 76 Combined Water Supply Schemes are completed, there will be no drinking water scarcity in the State. Not only for urban people, even for rural people the Central and State Governments have jointly planned 40 Lakh Drinking Water Connections to implement a Rs. 3,600 Crore scheme to provide 7 Lakh drinking water connections.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing the present drinking water scheme to provide protected drinking water supply to all people in Madurai. This scheme will be completed by the year 2023 and will provide about 1.10 Lakh connections so that all the 100 Corporation wards get piped water supply.

The existing Madurai Collectorate building was constructed in 1916. Every day thousands of people frequent the Collector's office for various official purposes. Following representations from the people, local MLAs and Hon'ble Ministers, an additional building has been declared open by me at this function.

Under the Smart City Scheme, various schemes worth Rs. 974.86 Crore have been implemented in the city. A fruit market, at a cost of Rs. 12 Crore at Mattuthavani, renovation of Madurai Periyar Main Bus stand at a cost of Rs. 167 Crore, upgradation of heritage sites and street lights in the City at a cost of Rs.73 Crore, a multi-tier vehicle parking complex near Madurai Meenakshi Temple at a cost of Rs. 42 Crore, more parks in different parts to add beauty to the City, renovation of Vilakkuthoon and Pathuthoon (ten pillars), beautification of Thirumalai Naicker Mahal and its surroundings, Information Centre for Tourists, Special Roads for all 4 Masi Streets at a cost of Rs.50 Crore, underground drainage scheme in North Vaigai areas attached to Madurai Corporation, at a cost of Rs. 276 Crore, a cultural Centre on Tamukkam Grounds, at a cost of Rs.47.7 Crore, two check dams through PWD across the Vaigai River at a cost of Rs. 84 Crore, 3 km-long protection wall on both sides of the River Vaigai, four-way lane and parks through Highways Department at a

cost of Rs. 303 Crore; 8 km-long protection walls and 4-lane roads have been set up on both sides of the River Vaigai and these facilities have been thrown open for the public use. Under the infrastructure and development fund, two bridges have been constructed across the River Vaigai at a cost of Rs.32 Crore and these roads are in public use. A bridge is being constructed across Vaigai River at Kuruvikaran Salai at a cost of Rs.23.17 Crore.

Under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, road works are going on for Madurai-Chettikulam highway bridge at a cost of Rs.544.23 Crore, Chettikulam-Natham four-lane roads at a cost of Rs.345.54 Crore, on the outer ring road from Vadipatti to Thirumangalam at a cost of Rs.493.02 Crore and a four-lane road from Melur to Karaikudi, at a cost of Rs.659 Crore.

On the National Highway 49 extension in Madurai City, work is going on for a multi-way over-bridge with central median and drainage at a cost of Rs. 52.04 Crore. To reduce traffic congestion, the existing Madurai Ring Road from Meenakshi Hospital to Kappalur has been converted into a four-lane road, at a cost of Rs.209 Crore and made available for the public use. A flyover at the Kalavasal Junction has been completed at a cost of Rs. 55 Crore. Due to expansion of Madurai Airport, a study has been undertaken on the construction of an underpass to the runway from the ring road near the airport.

I don't know why all these development schemes are not visible only to the eyes of the Opposition parties. I don't know the reason for this. Either there is a defect in their eyes or in their mind. However, one cannot hide these facts. But the DMK leader says that this Government is a waste. Only if he comes out of his seclusion, he can see these development schemes. If he sits in a closed room, he will be able to see only the surrounding walls! Let him come out of his room and see the various projects announced by me. The Tamil Nadu Government is an example of how a welfare Government should function. But it is their habit to always fabricate some lies and keep blaming the Government without any basis. They have not spelt out what they are going to do. But they do not have the heart to appreciate what we have done. We have given statistics of various welfare schemes which are being implemented by the Government. If you have any doubts over them, we are ready to clear your doubts. These are all the ongoing projects in this District.

Even today (04.12.2020), I have laid the foundation stone for a historic Rs.1,296 Crore scheme. This drinking water scheme has been designed with the visionary idea of making provisions for the drinking needs of the future citizens of the city. Not only here, throughout Tamil Nadu, 76 Combined Water Supply Schemes are being implemented. Already, I have inaugurated some of the Combined Water Supply Schemes. As far as the Hon'ble Amma's Government is concerned, its primary aim is that there should not be a drinking water problem in any part of the State. Wherever there is a drinking water problem we are taking steps to solve it at the earliest. Not only in urban areas, but also in rural areas, we have implemented protected water supply schemes. It is not an easy task to provide 40 Lakh drinking water connections. We have designed the scheme with the Central and State Government funding of Rs.3,600 Crore.

As far as this Government is concerned, our Hon'ble Ministers are working day and

night. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister is responsible for these activities. As he is the Finance Minister, whenever we announce a scheme, he finds ways to allot sufficient funds for the scheme. As he has been the Finance Minister right from Hon'ble Amma's time, he has got a lot of experience, which helps in bringing forward various schemes. I am proud to say that he stands like a pillar of strength for implementing various schemes.

Similarly as the Local Administration Minister is successfully implementing various schemes that have been announced, the Government is able to win various national awards. In a similar manner, whether it is the Electricity Department, Transport Department, Co-operation Department, and Disaster Management Department, or any other, this Government is making a mark.

As far as the Co-operative Department is concerned, it is acting as a shield for the poor and marginal farmers by extending loan facilities for them at the appropriate time. Due to this we are seeing a record yield in Cauvery Delta Districts. The Revenue Department is giving housing pattas to eligible poor people and helping them realize their dreams.

We have brought AIIMS Hospital to Madurai. The construction work is going on and soon the hospital will be a reality.

Similarly, for students of Government schools, we have implemented 7.5 per cent reservation in medical colleges. This is a historic decision. A review meeting was conducted for various welfare schemes, being implemented in Salem District. At that meeting the officials said that more students in rural areas are studying in Government high schools. Of the 41 per cent students studying in the Government schools, only 6 students were able to join the medical college through NEET examination last year. After 7.5 per cent reservation was announced by the Government, 313 students of Government High schools have been able to get admission in medical colleges. Through this internal reservation in Salem District, 3 students belonging to Backward Class, 13 students belonging to the Most Backward Class and 10 students belonging to Adi Dravidar Community, totally 26 students have got admission in medical colleges. The Government has been able to make the dream of poor students of rural areas getting admission in medical colleges a reality. We have been laying special roads; we have constructed many check dams. Many tanks have been de-silted with the assistance of farmers; we have designed this scheme to save even the last drop of rain water. We have been implementing many such welfare schemes. But the Opposition Leader, Thiru.M.K.Stalin continues to find fault with us as he is always thinking about elections. I would like to mention that we are meeting the people directly by touring various Districts, studying their problems and devising various schemes to find solutions to their problems. I am happy to announce that Hon'ble Amma's Government has been realizing the dreams of Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R, and Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Not only for Madurai city, but for the sub-urban areas also, the Hon'ble Amma's Government has given many schemes, I take leave of you by congratulating those who have made excellent arrangements for successful conduct of the function.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

‘Differently abled Persons should make full use of welfare schemes meant for them’

World Differently Abled Persons Day
December 3

Message of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on the occasion of World Differently Abled Persons Day.
(English Translation)

Every year, December 3 is celebrated as World Differently Abled Persons Day to protect their interests and rights. On this occasion, I extend my warm greetings to all Differently Abled Persons.

To enable Differently Abled Persons to get their rights and opportunities like other normal people, Hon’ble Amma’s Government has sanctioned a monthly pension of Rs. 1,500 per person, retro fitted scooters to Differently Abled Persons at no cost, free bus facility, four per cent reservation in vacancies in public sector concerns, local bodies, boards, reflective folding sticks to visually impaired persons, special wheelchairs to paraplegic persons and persons affected with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities, smart canes to identify obstacles on all sides to enable crossing at traffic junctions and for the first time in the country, State Resource Centre to provide proper advice to differently abled children in the State. These are some of the welfare measures implemented by Hon’ble Amma’s Government for Differently Abled Persons.

To improve the status of Differently Abled Persons and to enable them live with equal rights, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing various welfare schemes. I once again appeal to them to make the best use of these schemes and improve their lives.

News in Picture

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** presided over a review meeting held at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.12.2020 regarding the steps undertaken in connection with the ‘Burevi’ cyclone that had formed in the Bay of Bengal and the heavy rains that came in its wake.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates services of 108 more '108' Ambulance vans

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, inaugurated the services of a new fleet of '108' Ambulance vans fitted with life-saving medical equipment costing Rs. 24.78 Crore at the Secretariat, Chennai on 12.11.2020.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, functioning on the lines of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various schemes to avoid accidents and avert casualties, establish accident treatment centres and strengthen the '108' Ambulance service and head injuries treatment centres. At present 1,180 vehicles are functioning under the '108' Ambulance services. Over 1.02 Crore members of the public, including 25.34 Lakh pregnant women, have benefited through it.

Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced under 110 Statement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 24.03.2020 that 500 new vans at a cost of Rs.125 Crore would be added to strengthen the '108' Ambulance service.

As part of its implementation, under Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme, Rs.103.50 Crore has been allotted for the purchase of 500 Emergency vans. In the first phase, 90 new Ambulance vans with life-saving devices were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 31.08.2020.

In the second phase, 108 vans fitted with life-saving devices, at a cost of Rs.24.78 Crore, were flagged off by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Corona incidence in Sivagangai District shows considerable drop, many schemes in full swing

Speech delivered by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the review meeting on the progress of developmental Schemes and anti-Corona activities in Sivagangai District, at the District Collectorate on 04.12.2020.

(English Translation)

I bow to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, I welcome all those who have come here for participating in the advisory meeting on anti-Corona activities and successful execution of the schemes announced by Hon'ble Amma's Government for Sivagangai District.

The incidence of Corona virus in Tamil Nadu has considerably come down due to anti-Corona activities taken on a war footing

by all Government Departments. At present, the number of Corona-affected persons is less than 1,500. When the virus started spreading, it was high in Tamil Nadu and less in neighbouring States. Due to the tough measures taken by the Government, the virus spread has been controlled. Now, the virus spread in the neighbouring States has increased. Doctors, nurses and medical personnel have helped control the virus spread in our State and I heartily thank them for their services. This was possible due to the co-ordinated steps taken by the Departments of Revenue, Local Administration, Food, Co-operative, Police and others . On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu. I thank all the officials who worked in these Departments.

In Sivagangai, the number of those who were affected by Corona virus infection is 6,345; of these, 6,139 have been cured and 125 have succumbed. The number of affected persons has gradually come down and it was only 16 yesterday. Eighty persons are under treatment now. The District Administration and the Health Department have worked jointly and controlled the virus spread in the District.

Though the virus incidence has come down, medical experts have warned that people should be cautious as there is the possibility of the virus surfacing again due to the rainy season. We have therefore given sufficient advice in this regard to the District administration, Health Department and other Departments.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the virus spread is on the decline. In Sivagangai District, we have sufficient hospitals and beds to treat virus-affected patients. We have sufficient stock of medicines and equipment to treat the affected patients. So people need not be afraid though they should be careful.

The virus spread in various countries was heavy at the initial stages. Due to steps taken by the countries concerned, the virus spread came down and they returned to normalcy. As the general public in various countries did not follow the instructions, the virus spread started increasing again. This is an infectious disease.

To return to normalcy, the Government has been announcing gradual relaxation of restrictions. As a cure for the Corona virus has not been found, people should remain safe. I again and again repeat that the public should strictly follow the guidelines announced by the Government. I would like to inform the people that the guidelines announced by the Government are the only medicine for the disease and the only protection.

In the Sivagangai District, of the 8,937 petitions received during the Special Redressal Grievance Scheme, 4,111 petitions have been accepted for action. During 2019-2020, house site pattas have been given to 6,486 persons. For change of patta names,784 cases have been resolved out of 1,310 petitions received.

In this District, various development works are going on. I would like to announce that for the people of the District not covered by the Water Supply Scheme with Cauvery as source, various schemes are being implemented. For the people of three Municipalities, 12 town panchayats, and 3,352 villages of the District, we are going to implement a big combined Water Supply Scheme. Of this, through Ramanathapuram Combined Water Supply Scheme, about 799 rural tenements and three Town Panchayats and one Municipality, through Pudukkottai Combined Water Supply Scheme 125 tenements and through Melur Combined Water Supply Scheme one Town Panchayat will benefit. Eleven Panchayat Unions, including 2,459 rural tenements, Eight Town Panchayats and three Municipalities, which are left out of Cauvery Drinking water will be benefited by the Scheme. The Sivaganga Combined Water Supply Scheme was announced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 08.08.2014. The inspection work for the scheme was conducted. For those in Sivagangai District not covered by Cauvery Water Scheme, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department issued a G.O on 10.09.2020 for a Rs.1,752.73 Crore Water Supply Scheme for the benefit of 11.40 Lakh people; funds have been allotted and tenders floated. The work will start soon. Thus, Hon'ble Amma's Government has taken steps to fulfill the long-time demand of the people of the District for protected water supply.

Underground drainage scheme for the Sivagangai Municipality is almost over and is to be dedicated for public use soon. Now the trial run is going on. As far as Karaikudi Municipality is concerned, work on the underground drainage system at a cost of Rs. 122.5 Crore has started and 85 per cent of the works have been completed. The balance will be completed soon. Under the 'Kudimaramathu' Scheme from the financial year 2016-2017 to 2019-2020, 236 tanks have been desilted. The Government is taking steps to provide irrigation to

35,566 acres of land. During the financial year 2020-2021, renovation of 35 tanks which provide irrigation to 16,230 acres, has been completed at a cost of Rs. 26.54 Crore. 80% works were comleted. The remaining works will be completed soon.

Renovation of 61 irrigation lakes and their supply canals under Upparu sub-basin has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 37.84 Crore to provide irrigation to 22,059 acres. The work is going on in full swing. Work is going on to level Upparu and carry out cross infrastructure work at a cost of Rs. 14.50 Crore. Due to this, about 7,454 acres of land will be benefited. Renovation, Repair and restoration of 24 tanks in Devakottai, Kannangudi, Thirupattur, Singampunari and Kallal unions have been taken under RRR (Repair, Renovation and Restoration) scheme at a cost of Rs. 9.83 Crore to benefit 2,737 acres of land. The work is in full swing.

Repairing 19 water bodies under the Manamadurai, Sivagangai and Karaikudi Assembly constituencies at a cost Rs. 7.60 Crore, was taken up under RRR-II scheme and has been completed. To provide irrigation to ayacutdars of Kaikkudi Tank in Devakottai division and its integrated tanks, a dam is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 10.60 Crore across Manimutharu near Udayachi Village.

During the financial year 2020-2021, on the Kottampatti -Thirupattur -Karaikudi National Highway No. 383 Extension, 24.450 km long road at a cost of Rs.113.76 Crore from Singampunari to Thirupattur Road is being developed and converted into a four lane road. Under the Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor, estimate has been prepared for the development of 16.26 km long road from Melur to Thirupattur and a bypass road of 2.66 km long to Thirupattur, at a cost of Rs. 110 Crore is to be developed; contracts have been finalized and work is to begin soon. Work is going on for three highway bridges, one each on the Thirupattur-Alangudi Road, Mathur-Mulakulam Road and Aranmanai Siruvayal road at a total cost of Rs. 20.16 Crore.

Steps are being taken to increase the intake of students in the Sivaganga Government Medical College from 100 to 150. Permission has been granted for starting postgraduate courses in medicines in the medical college. High tech computer laboratories have been set up in 65 Government high schools and 66 Government higher secondary schools in the District for the benefit of students.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, during the financial year 2020-2021, 749 houses have been provided drinking water connections against the target of 4,231 tenements in 53 small villages and 35 Panchayats at a cost of Rs. 8.85 Crore. Steps are taken to provide connections to the remaining houses. Under the Solid Waste Management Scheme, during the year 2018-2019, 29 works have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 19.87 Crore. Of these, 28 works have been completed and are in use in Sivagangai,

Karaikudi and Devakottai Municipalities. Parks have been developed under the Amrut scheme.

Rs. 82.5 Crore has been given as compensation for the loss of crops during drought in Sivagangai District framers 96,109 during the financial years 2016-2017, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Under the joint farming scheme, assistance has been given to farmers. Under the Farm Ponds Scheme, Rs. 6.5 Crore has been allotted to the District. Compensation has been given to farmers who were affected by Gaja Cyclone. For the Adi Dravidars, various welfare schemes have been implemented in the last five years by the Hon'ble Amma's Government.

At the Global Investors Meet 2019, MoUs were signed for setting up 58 industries at a cost of Rs. 153.76 Crore. Of these, 32 industries at a cost of Rs. 17.77 Crore have started functioning.

Under the Central Government's collateral-free loans for MSME units, Rs. 108 Crore has been given to 4,316 small and medium units. Multi-storied buildings with 608 flats at Paiyur and Mullaivasal villages , at a cost of Rs. 55.40 Crore, are at the finishing stage. Under the 'Construct your own house scheme', Rs. 75.93 Crore has been allotted with a subsidy of 2.10 Lakh for 2,531 beneficiaries. Of this, 1,185 beneficiaries have completed their houses.

The Government is taking steps for setting up new veterinary centres at a cost of Rs. 10.7 Crore. Work is on to build a new bus stand at Thirupattur Selection Grade Panchayat, at a cost of Rs. 3.30 Crore. During the financial year 2020-2021, in Singampunari, Manamadurai and Thirupattur Town Panchayats, steps are being taken to develop weekly markets at a cost of Rs. 7.50 Crore.

For the fourth and fifth stage of excavations in Keezhadi, Rs. 1.02 Crore has been allotted. In addition, the sixth stage of excavation was inaugurated by me on 19.02.2020 through video conferencing in Keezhadi village and in the surrounding Manalur, Agaram and Konthagai Villages. Through this excavation, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken steps to make known the 2,000 year old history of Tamils, their culture and civilization to the world.

In the last three years, 5,730 two-wheelers have been given to working women at a subsidy of Rs. 14.3 Crore. Many schemes like this have been implemented in the District.

The steps taken by the District Administration to control Corona virus in the District are commendable. Many schemes announced by Hon'ble Amma's Government have been successfully implemented in the District; I congratulate the District Administration for this.

Steps taken by the Government to control the Corona virus in the State have yielded good results. The Government is taking steps to reduce the spread of Corona virus further and bring back normalcy in the State.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

News in Pictures

Development works in Sivagangai District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open 27 completed scheme works valued at Rs. 36.43 Crore and laid foundation stones for 30 new scheme works to be executed at an estimate of Rs. 27.46 Crore, at a function held in District Collectorate, Sivagangai on 04.12.2020.

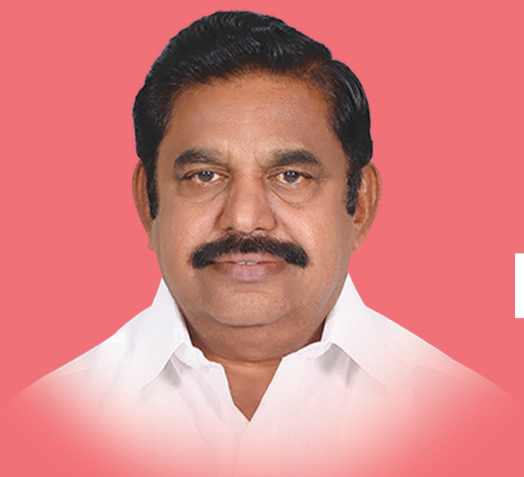
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** handed over Two-wheelers under the Amma two-wheeler distribution Scheme for Working Women at a function held at District Collectorate, Sivagangai on 04.12.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar and Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries Board Thiru. G. Baskaran, MLAs, District Collector Thiru. P. Madhusudhan Reddy I.A.S. and other high Government officials were present on the occasion.

Eleven road and river bridges costing Rs.27.16 Crore opened in nine Districts

On behalf of the Department of Highways and Minor Ports, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** declared open at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020, eleven road and river bridges constructed in the Districts of Kallakurichi, Thiruvarur, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Namakkal, Cuddalore and Thanjavur at a total cost of Rs.27.16 Crore.

Realizing the importance of road infrastructure in the socio-economic development of the State and to increase the number of roads commensurate with the growing transport needs and ensure safe travel, the Government of Tamil Nadu that treads the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has focused its attention on implementing works like construction of bridges all over the State, laying roads in needed areas and maintenance of bridges.

In this way the following bridges were constructed: a bridge across Muchukunda river at Lucky Naickenpatti on Vellimalai-Moolakadu-Pudur road in Sankarapuram Taluk, Kallakurichi District at a cost of Rs.2.20 Crore; a flyover at Mappillaikuppam on Mappillaikuppam-Aanaikuppam-Selvapuram road, Nannilam Taluk, Thiruvarur District (Rs.2.25 Crore); a flyover at Fishermen colony on the Perundurai-Makkinamkombai road, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District (Rs.2.91 Crore); a flyover at Goundanaickenpalayam on the Goundanaickenpalayam-Poyampalayam road, Tiruppur Taluk (North) (Rs.1.65 Crore and 2 flyovers at Periyayeepalayam at 3/6 KM point in Avinashi Taluk on the road that branches off from the Salem-Cochin road at the 110/8 KM point and joins the Avinashi-Tiruppur-Palladam-Pollachi-Cochin road at the 4/2 KM point (Rs.1.95 Crore) (both in Tiruppur District); a flyover at Indira Nagar on Thudiyalur Chinna Thadaagam road in Coimbatore Taluk (North) in Coimbatore District (Rs.3 Crore); a flyover at Thummanada on the Thummanatty-T. Manihatty road, Udhagamandalam Taluk, the Nilgiris District (Rs.1.10 Crore); 2 bridges across jungle stream at Mathur in Virudhachalam Taluk, Cuddalore District on the road Poovanur-Veerareddikuppam at the points 1/2 km and ¼ km, respectively at a cost of Rs.2 Crore and Rs.1.50 Crore; and a flyover at Chokkanavur on the Pappanadu-Madhukkur-Perugavazhndhan road, Pattukkottai Taluk, Thanjavur District (Rs.4.20 Crore). Totally 11 bridges costing Rs.27.16 Crore were declared open.



'Let us take a pledge for HIV/AIDS-free Tamil Nadu'

December 1

WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

(English Translation).

Every year, December 1 is celebrated as World's AIDS Day to create awareness about AIDS/HIV. This year's central theme for the AIDS Day is 'Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility'.

Due to steps taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in controlling AIDS , the incidence of AIDS has come down from 0.38 per cent in the year 2010-2011 to 0.18 per cent in 2019, as per the statistics provided by the National Aids Control Organisation.

To detect the incidence of HIV among people, 3,161 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) and 16 mobile centres are in operation in the State. Along with this, effective treatment is given through 216 clinics for sexually transmitted Infection. To prevent parent to child transmission, in all District hospitals and in the ICTCs, special treatment is given to pregnant women.

To help patients affected by HIV/ AIDS, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing various welfare schemes including a monthly pension of Rs. 1,000 from the Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam to the affected persons, free pass bus to affected persons to commute to hospitals for treatment and monthly pension to young widows by relaxing the age-limit criterion. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing the 'Drop in Centre' scheme from the financial year 2020-2021 with a financial assistance of Rs.2.41 Crore to support AIDS-affected persons in treatment and continued services. Thirty-four such centres are functioning.

I affectionately appeal to you to create necessary awareness among people about HIV/ AIDS, take a pledge to create a HIV/AIDS-free Tamil Nadu and show compassion to the affected ones, treat them equally and help them gain self-confidence.

Hon'ble Chief Minister appeals to people to co-operate so that virus continues to be down

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 30.11.2020 (English Translation).

To protect the people from the Corona virus, Hon'ble Amma's Government, on the directive of the Central Government, implemented the lockdown under the National Disaster Management Act from 25.03.2020 with many relaxations at regular intervals. Hon'ble Amma's Government has been taking focused steps to protect people from the Corona virus, besides providing relief measures to the affected people.

Due to these measures the spread of Corona virus is under control in the State. Significantly, the virus incidence in all Districts in the State is coming down gradually. Due to the special measures taken by the Government and the co-operation of the public, the virus spread has been brought under control. It has been brought down to below 6.55 per cent. On an average, the number of affected persons per day is less than 1,600. The number of those who are under treatment has come down from 50,000 to 11,000.

The lockdown in the State has been extended up to 30.11.2020 with many relaxations. Based on the review meetings conducted by me, based on the suggestions given by the District Collectors at the review meeting held on 28.11.2020, based on my meetings with senior Ministers of the cabinet and taking into consideration the present virus spread and taking into account the advice given by medical and public health experts, the current lockdown under the National Disaster Management Act, which is to end on 30.11.2020 will be extended up to midnight 12 p.m. 31.12.2020 with more relaxations along with the existing relaxations. Taking into consideration the need for retrieving the economy, the following relaxations are allowed along with the existing relaxations throughout Tamil Nadu except in the Containment zones for the following services.

Following the standard guidelines, final year undergraduate classes in all colleges

including Arts, Science, Technical, Engineering, Agricultural, Fisheries and Veterinary colleges will start functioning from 07.12.2020; the hostels for them will also function.

Following the standard guidelines, medical and all medical affiliated colleges (from UG to PG classes) are permitted to open from 07.12.2020 . However, classes for new students who join in the academic year 2020-2021, and hostels for them will function from 01.02.2020.

Following the standard guidelines, swimming pools are permitted to open but for sports training only.

In the coming days, depending on the status of the Corona virus, following the standard guidelines, beaches, including Marina will be opened from 14.12.2020 for the public.

Following the standard guidelines, tourist spots will be opened for public use, and exhibition auditoriums permitted to function for business to business purposes only.

Following the standard guidelines, social, political, recreational and religious meetings are allowed in closed auditoriums up to 50 per cent capacity, from 01.12.2020 to 31.12.2020. For these meetings, prior permission of District Collectors, in case of Districts and from Police Commissioner in case of Greater Chennai Corporation is necessary. Based on the virus spread, a decision will be taken on whether or not to allow public meetings in open grounds.

The existing e-pass registration for persons coming to Tamil Nadu from other States except Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka will continue.

The existing control on activities will continue till new orders are issued.

As the Union Ministry of Home Affairs extends the ban on international air traffic, it will continue in the State except for the air routes permitted by the Union Ministry.

In the containment zones in the State, the existing procedures will be followed without any relaxation in countdown.

We should all work together to ensure that the present situation of decline in Corona spread continues and the virus spread is under control. At a time when the spread is on the decline, people should avoid gathering in public places and function with vigilance. Various relaxations and guidelines are issued by the Government through orders. People should follow these orders.

When going out and in public places people should wear masks without fail. They should wash their hands frequently in their houses and working places, maintain social distance and avoid going out unnecessarily. Only when people give full co-operation to the Government in these ways will the virus spread be controlled completely.

Therefore, in their own interest, people should give full co-operation to the various anti-Covid measures taken by the Government. I appeal to people to continue their co-operation to the Government in controlling the virus spread. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens Amma marriage halls to help the poor

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** declared open an Amma Marriage Hall, constructed through the Tamil Nadu Housing Board at Ayapakkam, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District at a cost of Rs.12.22 Crore through video conferencing at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020. Also declared open were Amma Marriage Halls, constructed at a cost of Rs.22.61 Crore at Korattur and Velachery and 32 Middle Income Group (MIG) flats, constructed at a cost of Rs.10.75 Crore at Sholinganallur.

On 17.09.2016, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced that 'Amma Marriage Halls' with all facilities would be constructed to help poor people who incur huge expenditure by way of rent for conducting auspicious events like marriage.

The Ayapakkam Amma Marriage Hall has come up with a stilt floor and three floors on a 0.64 acre site. The stilt floor has a parking facility for two and four wheelers, the first floor a dining hall, the second floor a hall with a seating capacity for 630 persons and rooms for bride and bridegroom and the third floor with attached bedrooms separately for men and women. Other facilities provided include lift, borewell, sump, transformer genset, centralized A/C, solar energy, CCTV cameras, exterior electric lamps, fire extinguishers, drinking water and drainage, compound wall and rain-water harvesting.

The Amma Marriage Halls at Korattur and Velachery (Chennai District) have come up respectively on 0.98 acres and 0.47 acres at a cost of Rs.13.90 Crore and Rs.8.71 Crore. The 32 MIG flats, under the self finance scheme, have been constructed on a site of 23,189 sq.ft. with a stilt floor and 4 floors at a cost of Rs.10.75 Crore at Sholinganallur – Area II. Totally three Amma Marriage Halls and flats, constructed at a cost of Rs.45.58 Crore were declared open.

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** handed over appointment order for a Village Assistant post in the Revenue and Disaster Management Department at the Revenue unit of Thoothukudi District to Selvan A. Ajai Jones on compassionate grounds at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020. Selvan Jones is the son of Antony Selvaraj who died in the stir against Sterlite Copper Plant.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** handed over at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020, cheques for Rs.25 Lakh each to the families of firemen of the Fire and Rescue Services Department Thiru. K.Sivarajan and Thiru.P. Krishnamurthi, who died in a building collapse while engaged in extinguishing a fire in a cloth shop at Madurai on 14.11.2020.

News in Picture

Under the Department of Tamil Development and Information's 'Journalists Family Assistance Scheme' for journalists who die in harness, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** presented at the Secretariat on 10.12.2020, a cheque for Rs. 2 Lakh to the family of R. Mohan, Reporter in Dinakaran newspaper. The financial assistance is from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

November 16 - National Press Day

'Journalists report incidents fairly, independently'

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on the occasion of National Press Day *(English Translation)*.

Every Year November 16 is celebrated as National Press (Journalism) Day to honour the services of the news media , which is considered the Fourth Estate of Democracy. On this happy occasion, I extend my best wishes to all our friends working in newspapers and television channels.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has been implementing various welfare schemes to protect the interests of journalists. These include a monthly pension of Rs.10,000 to indigent journalists who have served for more than 20 years, increase in the Journalists Medical Welfare Fund to Rs. 2 Lakh, increase in the ex-gratia payment to journalists from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund in case of death in harness, residential flats from the Tamil Nadu Housing Board to journalists in Chennai and the Districts at concessional rent under the Government's discretionary quota, house-site pattas to print and visual media journalists at concessional rates and free bus pass to accredited journalists.

Congratulating journalists who are doing the great work of taking information about the various welfare schemes to the people and serving as a bridge between the people and the Government and also reporting incidents to the people in a fair and independent manner, I once again happily extend my best wishes to them.

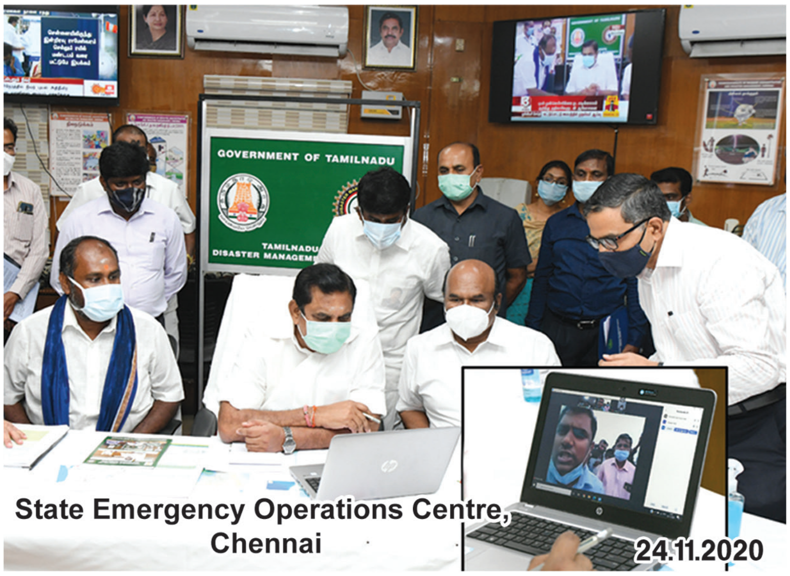
Hon’ble Chief Minister inspects areas

MUTTUKATTU- CHENGALPET
30.11.2020

26.11.2020

PALLIKARANAI - CHENNAI
30.11.2020

KILKUMARAMANGALAM - REDDY CHAVADI, CUDDALORE
26.11.2020



State Emergency Operations Centre, Chennai
24.11.2020

KARAPAKKAM - CHENNAI
30.11.2020

affected by Cyclone Nivar, distributes relief

MUTHUNAGAR - CUDDALORE

CHEMBARAMBAKKAM - KANCHEEPURAM

25.11.2020

PALLIKARANAI - CHENNAI

30.11.2020

DEVANAPATTI - CUDDALORE

26.11.2020

Loss of lives averted by advance measures taken by the Government during Cyclone Nivar

Statement of the Honble Chief minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** on 27.11.2020.

(English Translation)

Following the report of the Indian Meteorological Department 25.11.2020 that the Nivar Cyclone will cross the coast near Karaikal-Mahabalipuram, the Government of Tamil Nadu, under my leadership, took various precautionary measures on a war footing. Due to this, the loss of lives has been prevented to a large extent. When the cyclone crossed the coast, heavy wind and torrential rains caused heavy damages in 18 Districts, including Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Kancheepuram Thirupattur, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvarur, Vellore and Villupuram. At present, work on a war footing is going on to repair the heavy damages.

Those who are living in low-lying areas affected by Cyclone Nivar were safely shifted and moved to relief centres. Relief materials such as food, drinking water and mats were provided to them. In addition, 10 kg of rice per family, one dhoti, one saree and one litre of kerosene, was given to them. Apart from these materials, I have directed the supply of one kg of dhal and one kg of cooking oil.

To prevent loss of lives due to the cyclone, the Government took precautionary measures. I am very sorry to learn that despite such measures taken by the Government, so far 4 persons have lost their lives. I extend my heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families. I have ordered payment of Rupees Four Lakh from the State Disaster Response Fund Rupees Six Lakh and totally Rs.10 Lakh from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the bereaved families.

Due to the storm, 61 cows, 5 bulls, 65 calves and 114 goats have perished. I have ordered payment of Rs. 30,000 for each cow, Rs. 25,000 for each bull, and Rs. 16,000 for each calf. Due to Cyclone Nivar, 302 thatched houses were completely damaged, 1,499 thatched houses were partially damaged, 36 tiled houses were fully damaged and 161 tiled houses were partially damaged. Proper relief will be given for the affected houses.

Due to the cyclone 2,064 trees have been uprooted in the 18 Districts of Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Kanchipuram, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ranipet, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Thirupattur, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvarur, Vellore and Villupuram. The uprooted trees on the road were removed by cutting them with power saws on a war footing and the traffic was restored.

Due to Cyclone Nivar, 108 transformers in various Districts have been damaged and 2,927 electric posts have fallen. As the transformers were damaged due to uprooted trees, the Electricity Department is fully engaged in removing the trees and replacing the transformers and electric posts.

My Government, which has been functioning on the lines of Puratchi Thalaivi

Amma has been taking various measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases on a war footing.

To protect the people from diseases, 1,220 medical camps have been set up. In addition 275 mobile clinics have been engaged. So far 85,331 people have benefited from these medical camps. Sufficient stocks of medicines and insecticides have been kept. The Health and Family Welfare Department in coordination with the local bodies have been taking various steps to rush to the help of the affected people.

I have issued orders to officials to find a permanent solution to water-logging in Velachery, Mudichur, Varadharajapuram and Tambaram areas.

I have also issued orders to provide sufficient compensation from the Disaster Management Fund and through crop insurance to farmers for the loss of their crops, after assessing the damage.

Hon'ble Amma's Government under my leadership has taken steps on a war footing to repair the damages caused by the cyclone and the heavy rains. I request the people to cooperate with the Government in its efforts to restore normalcy.

Thanks to Hon'ble Supreme Court for Pongal holidays

Statement of
the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
on 27.11.2020.
(English Translation)

"Thiruvalluvar hailed the farmer as the 'pivot of the world'. For farmers 'Thai Pongal' is a great day. I am extremely happy over the Hon'ble Supreme Court's historic announcement that January 14 and 15, 2021 will be holidays for the court in connection with Pongal. I wholeheartedly welcome this announcement.

"Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma constantly insisted that Tamil should be announced as a medium of language in courts. The Government headed by me, that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, also continues to urge this demand."

"On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu and on my own behalf, I convey my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for making known to all people the greatness of Thai Pongal, the harvest festival day, reflecting the culture and civilization of Tamils, by declaring holidays for the Hon'ble Supreme Court on those days."

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects areas

08.12.2020

KADAVACHERI - CUDDALORE

08.12.2020

SALIYANTHOPPU VILLAGE - CUDDALORE

08.12.2020

VEERANAM LAKE - CUDDALORE

affected by Cyclone Burevi, distributes relief

08.12.2020

LALPET - CUDDALORE

08.12.2020

ANUKKAMPATTU - CUDDALORE

08.12.2020

VALLAMPADUGAI - CUDDALORE

Virudhunagar District has many development and welfare schemes

Excerpts from the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and COVID-19 virus activities in Virudhunagar District, on 11.11.2020 (English Translation).

I bow before Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

The Corona virus infection spread is found to be more in the neighbouring States like Kerala, Andhra and Karnataka, and in Delhi. But the virus spread has gradually come down in Tamil Nadu due to the intensive monitoring by the Government, its advice being followed in the right direction by Government Department Secretaries and high Officials and the excellent implementation by the District Administration.

For the prevention of this virus infection spread, the Government is suggesting, now and then, several ways and means to the District Administration and the Health Department. As part of this, the spraying of disinfectant is continued in urban areas and residential clusters. Streets and towns affected by the virus spread were declared as containment zones and special attention was given to them. Fever camps were held in all Districts, people were asked to participate in those camps, tests were conducted on appearance of symptoms and immediate admissions made in hospitals of those who tested positive.

In Virudhunagar District, 10,173 fever camps have so far been held at the rate of 103 camps per day and 4,55,865 persons have

been tested. There are 24 containment zones in this District. Also, the mobile medical teams and workers of the Health and Local Administration Departments appointed by the Government undertake house-to-house visit, tests, admit those exhibiting symptoms in hospitals, and treat and cure them. As a result of various such measures taken by the Government, the virus infection spread has been controlled in Tamil Nadu. Tip offs to District Administration and Health Department about the areas of virus prevalence resulted in immediate response by way of visits to the areas concerned, tests and taking of steps to cure those with symptoms of the infection. Efforts taken to prevent the virus spread in such multiple ways have yielded good results.

Reliance on RT-PCR tests totally has helped in precise identification of the virus for taking up the correct treatment. Rapid test, depended upon by other States, could not precisely identify the virus. In Tamil Nadu, we are performing RT-PCR test to about 75,000 persons daily. Likewise, we took up contact tracing – identifying the areas visited by the affected persons -- to subject the people to tests in those areas to give immediate treatment to those testing positive to the virus. Action taken continuously in this way has helped in lowering the virus infection gradually in the State, compared to other States, and to bring it under control.

There are sufficient beds in Government and private hospitals for treatment of virus-affected people. We have provided oxygen-fitted beds also. There is enough stock of medical appliances as well as N95 face masks, PPE kits, Zinc and Multi-vitamin tablets. I wish to particularly mention that distribution of ‘kabasura kudineer’ to people was also a factor for the prevention of the virus spread. Since, we have taken measures in many ways in Virudhunagar District to prevent the virus infection, we are returning to normalcy gradually.

Hon’ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s Government has announced many schemes for Virudhunagar District. Acceding to the long-standing demand of the District people, Hon’ble Minister and Members of Legislature from this District, I am happy to inform that construction works are going on now for a Government medical college and hospital in this District in accordance with the announcement made earlier.

This District has a large labour force. Construction of a maternity and obstetrics centre at a cost of Rs.18 Crore is going on in the Government headquarters hospital complex for providing medical facilities for women during their pregnancy. Construction of a hostel for students of Nurses Training school has been completed.

As for Revenue Department, petitions were received in each District through the Chief Minister’s Special Grievance Redressal Scheme. The scheme aims at Government officials reaching the people to get petitions and resolve their grievances instead of

people approaching the Government. In Virudhunagar District, of the 8,251 petitions received, solutions were found for 4,131 eligible ones. Among the petitions for grant of house pattas in the financial year 2019-2020, pattas were given free of cost to 5,762 persons.

In respect of my announcement that a monthly old-age pension of Rs.1,000 will be given to five Lakh senior citizens incapable of going to work, old-age pension was given to 1,178 eligible persons in Virudhunagar District alone out of the 3,802 petitions received. Orders have been issued for change of patta in respect of 1,705 petitions out of the 2,794 received.

'Kudimaramathu' – a wonderful scheme announced by Hon'ble Amma's Government, is being implemented through the PWD in all Districts. Lakes not de-silted for years together in Virudhunagar District were dredged. Till 2019-2020, 146 'kudimaramathu' works were taken up and completed at a cost of Rs.64.69 Crore. For the year 2020-2021, Rs. 17.61 Crore has been allotted for this scheme for this District and 40 works have been taken up. Many such works are being carried out through the PWD. I wish to mention a few of them.

Under the repair, streamlining and rejuvenation scheme, 16 lakes are being rejuvenated at a cost of Rs.11.89 Crore; works have started for building an anicut across Gundar at a cost of Rs.10.10 Crore to supply water to Pandanendhal lake in Kariapatti Taluk; works have started for the construction of a check dam across Arjuna river, Vadugapatti Village, Watrap Taluk at a cost of Rs.2.59 Crore; construction of a check dam across Deviyaru, Appanaickenpatti Village, Vembakottai Taluk, at a cost of Rs.3 Crore is under consideration; so too under consideration are the constructions of a check dam across Nalli Uppodai, Pavanaickenpatti Village, Sattur Taluk, at a cost of Rs.2 Crore and another check dam across Pallampatti Odai at Sankarapandiapuram Village, Vembakottai Taluk at an estimate of Rs.1.25 Crore; constructions of anicuts under Government consideration are – one across Kousika Nadhi at Pavali Village, Virudhunagar Taluk at a cost of Rs.2.40 Crore and another one across the same river at Vanamalaikurichi Village, in the same Taluk at a cost of Rs.2.01 Crore.

Many building works are being executed by the PWD in this District. The Highways Department also has taken up many works. A railway over-bridge is being constructed at a cost of Rs.46 Crore near Rajapalayam railway station on the Rajapalayam-Vembakottai road. The National Highways Authority of India will take up the work of laying an integrated bypass for Rajapalayam and Srivilliputhur towns on National Highway No.208. A project report is being prepared for a link road between the new bus stand and Government hospital in Rajapalayam.

The Government has issued an order to take up the scheme works for the outer ring road for Sivakasi city at the revised estimate

of Rs.82.45 Crore for which administrative sanction has been given and land acquisition works are going on. A detailed project report is getting prepared for a bypass road for Aruppukottai town; a proposal to acquire lands at a cost of Rs.35.40 Crore is under Government's consideration.

Under the Green House Scheme, construction of 2,573 houses at a cost of Rs.46.31 Crore was taken up in the last 3 years and 2,294 houses have been constructed; construction is in progress for 273 houses. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for all) Scheme, in the last 3 years construction of 5,947 houses had been taken up at a cost of Rs.101 Crore and construction of 2,806 houses has been completed; work on the remaining houses is under progress.

Steps are being taken to give Drinking Water pipe connection to 234 dwellings in 99 Panchayats under the Jal Jeevan Mission. A tender works for an estimate of Rs.50.80 Crore have been completed and works on the project will commence soon.

There are 30,051 Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Virudhunagar District with a membership of 4,20,701. They have been given collateral bank loan to the tune of Rs.1,263 Crore. Under the Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme for working women, vehicles have been allotted to 2,790 persons and of them, a subsidy of Rs.5.18 Crore has been given to 2,070 persons.

Many schemes are being executed through the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board. The underground drainage scheme for the Municipalities of Virudhunagar, Aruppukottai, Sattur and Rajapalayam and many other schemes are being carried out through Hon'ble Amma's Government.

In the agriculture sector, many schemes have been announced today (11.11.2020). During the severe drought of 2016-2017, Rs.55 Crore was disbursed to 69,258 farmers as input relief assistance under the State Disaster Responds Fund. Under the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana Scheme, a compensation of Rs.335.75 Crore was distributed to farmers.

In the voluntary concrete house construction programme under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) scheme, works are on for the construction of 3,875 houses through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board at an estimate of Rs.114.25 Crore in the Municipalities of Virudhunagar, Aruppukottai, Sivakasi, Thiruthangal, Sattur, Rajapalayam and Srivilliputhur. In the affordable housing scheme with beneficiaries participation under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) scheme, 864 flats have been constructed at an estimate of Rs.77.39 Crore.

The School Education Department has upgraded 6 middle level schools in this District into high schools and 7 high schools into higher secondary schools. A Government arts and science college has been opened in Srivilliputhur.

Like these, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes in this District.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Development works in Virudhunagar District

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open 30 completed scheme works valued at Rs. 27.52 Crore and laid foundation stones for 15 new scheme works to be executed at an estimate of Rs. 11.35 Crore, at a function held in District Collectorate, Virudhunagar on 11.11.2020.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** distributed Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries at a function held at District Collectorate, Virudhunagar on 11.11.2020. Hon’ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon’ble Minister for Milk and Dairy Development Thiru. K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji, MLAs, District Collector Thiru. R. Kannan I.A.S. and other high Government officials were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates completed schemes in Salem District

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** after inaugurating the completed project works and laying the foundation stone for new projects, at a Government function at Vanavasi, Mettur Taluk, Salem District on 19.11.2020.
(English Translation)

I bow before Goddess Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, I convey my respects to all the participants at the event got up to declare open the hostel buildings for students, commission the various completed Scheme works and lay the foundation stone for new Scheme works, being held at the Vanavasi Government Polytechnic college complex in the Edappadi Assembly constituency, Salem District.

On the request for additional buildings for this polytechnic, new hostel buildings for boy and girl students were constructed at a cost of Rupees Nine Crore and are declared open today (19.11.2020). This region is a backward region, populated mostly by the poor. Children of poor parents have to go out of this region to take up higher education and this means more expenditure. So, this polytechnic college was opened in deference to the demands made by the people during the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Elections in 2011 and 2016. Likewise, Hon'ble Amma's Government has fulfilled the demand for hostel facilities today. Buildings costing Rs.23 Crore were constructed for this polytechnic college which started functioning from 27.07.2018. Total number of students studying in this college is 827. 677 boys and 150 girls.

Many completed works have also been commissioned through this event. I have today (19.11.2020) inaugurated 86 completed project works, costing Rs.123.53 Crore. They are: rejuvenation of lakes and new structural works for recharging ground water – Rs.9.65 Crore (Water Resources Department); newly constructed building for Konganapuram rural police station and office building for Athur Prohibition Enforcement Wing (Rs.1,32,90,000 Police Department); newly constructed classrooms, science laboratory, arts and handicrafts room and compound walls in Government high school, Chinnapillaiyur and in Government girls higher secondary school, Jalakandapuram, Sankagiri Taluk (Rs.2,02,11,000 School Education Department); a special library building for children at the Salem District Central Library (Rs. 34 Lakh; Department of Library); a new convention hall and renovation and modernization of the community hall at the Salem District Central Co-operative Bank headquarters,

new office buildings for three Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies at Chettimankurichi, Mothayanur and Pethanaickenpalayam and a newly set up oil extraction factory at the Salem Agricultural Producers Co-operative Marketing Society - seven works - Rs.5,24,50,000 (Co-operation Department); newly constructed Revenue Division office building at Edappadi Electricity Division – Rs.51.71 Lakh; a newly set up Sub-station at Adaiyur, Edappadi Taluk –Rs.19.10 Crore; a newly set up sub-station at K.R. Thoppu – Rs.15,62,01,000 (all on behalf of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation); a new office building with compound wall and store room for the Sentharapatti Special category Town Panchayat under the common fund Scheme – Rs.49.70 Lakh; renovation of 42 damaged group houses at Poolampatti Town Panchayat from the Edappadi MLA Constituency development fund – Rs.21 Lakh (Department of Town Panchayats); water supply works under the re-structuring and renovation Scheme to supply drinking water to 137 dwellings in Edappadi, Konganapuram Panchayat Union through Rasipuram-Edappadi Combined Water Supply Scheme –Rs.23.58 Crore (Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board); new office building for Nangavalli Panchayat Union, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.78 Crore under the Assigned Revenue Cases Scheme; 11 works, completed at an estimate of Rs. 1,01,85,000 under the Constituency Development Scheme for Edappadi; 10 works completed at an estimate of Rs.99.37 Lakh under the Local Area Development Scheme from Brother Thiru.N.Chandrasekaran, Rajya Sabha Member’s constituency development fund; new office buildings constructed for three Panchayats – Konasamudram, Arasanatham and Chanarapatti –at a cost of Rs.50.78 Lakh and seven new Anganwadi Centre buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.60.33 Lakh- all under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; new classroom buildings for 2 schools in Konganapuram Panchayat Union – Union Primary school at Karattur and Union Middle level School at Chanarapatti, constructed at a cost of Rs.30 Lakh under the Capital Subsidy Fund Scheme; new classroom buildings in two schools in Pethanaickenpalayam Panchayat Union – Union Primary school and High School at Chinnakalrayan Vadakku Nadu, constructed at a cost of Rs.66 Lakh under the State Samacheer Development Fund Scheme; new buildings for Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres, one at Magudanchavadi on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and another at Athur on behalf of the Agricultural Engineering Department at a cost of Rs.1.75 Crore and Rupees One Crore respectively; new veterinary hospital and dispensary buildings at eight places – Veerapandi, Karuvalli, Kolathur,Chinnakonur, Kattukottai, Jalakandapuram, Muluvi and Chemmanatham – constructed at a cost of Rs.3,02,70,000 under NABARD Scheme (Animal Husbandry Department); five works completed at an estimate of Rs.9.10 Crore - new building for the ophthalmology ward at Salem Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, additional buildings with secondary facilities at Omalur Government Hospital, a building for a high-level mixing sub centre at the Mettur Government District Headquarters Hospital, building for Siddha system of medicine at the Kolathur Government Primary Health Centre and a new auxiliary health centre building at Kariyakovil; two new office buildings for firka surveyors with residence at Yercaud and Edappadi at an estimate of Rs.40.36 Lakh (Revenue Department); new office buildings for the Registration Department, costing Rs.2,76,57,000; installation of an automatic curd processing and cup packaging machinery at the Salem milk processing factory and a new office building for the Co-operative Milk Producers Union at Thevur, Sankagiri Taluk, together at a cost of Rs.94.41 Lakh (Dairy Development Department) and 9 completed works, costing Rs.10,56,70,000 inclusive of newly constructed classrooms, science laboratories, toilets, employees quarters, compound wall, dining hall with drinking water facility and kitchen buildings in Government scheduled tribe residential schools at Kalvarayan hills, Karumanthurai, Pagadupattu, Kariakoil Valavu, Arunoothumalai, Pachamalai, Veppadi, Coonoor and Pachamalai Kodungal.

On behalf of the Department of Water Resources, foundation stone has already been laid for various works to fill up water in 100 lakes. Now,

acceding to the demand of farmers for desilting of lakes, foundation stone is laid today for rejuvenation works in lakes in the four Assembly constituencies of Mettur, Omalur, Edappadi and Sankagiri and for construction of two check dams, all at an estimate of Rs.44.43 Crore.

On behalf of Salem Municipal Corporation, foundation stone is laid for seven new Scheme works costing Rs. 63.26 Crore under the Smart City Programme. The works pertain to the Departments of Police, Education and Municipal Administration and Water Supply. Foundation stone is laid for various works on behalf of the Department of Animal Husbandry. I am happy to state that the foundation stone has been laid today (19.11.2020) for 44 new Scheme works to be completed at an estimate of Rs.118.93 Crore for the Departments of Revenue, Dairy Development and Labour and Employment.

The closed-down Tamil Nadu Magnesite Ltd., company has been opened today (19.11.2020). This magnesite company was inaugurated by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. on 06.02.1979. It is a public sector company. Its annual income was Rs. 100 Crore. Magnesite and Dunite mineral ores are extracted from this mechanized open-air Government mine, located at Thathayangarpatti village in Omalur Taluk, Salem District. Magnesite is one of the rare minerals available only in certain pockets of India. Of this mineral ore wealth in the country, 70 per cent is obtained from Tamil Nadu - that is from Salem District. This mineral is used for refractory purposes in the production of high calibre furnaces needed in steel and chemical factories, and for making tumbled stones. Dunite mineral ore, obtained along with it, is used in steel factories. In its two different factories, this company is converting magnesite into two value-added products, Dead Burnt Magnesite and Lightly Calcined Magnesite, and is marketing them.

Mining works were temporarily suspended in 2018 for want of approval from the Central Government's Environment Ministry. For getting the approval, an application was sent to the Central Government's Environment Ministry, the needed rules and regulations obtained, a public hearing held on 29.01.2020 and a report was sent to the State Environment Commission. A no-objection certificate was also obtained after paying Rs. 72 Crore as compensation to the Department of Geology and Mining. Environmental clearance was obtained from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and its approval got on 10.11.2020 for starting mining operations. The mining works have been inaugurated today (19.11.2020). The revival of the mine will benefit 534 workers directly and 2,000 others indirectly. I wish to state that this will pave the way for the economic development of the people of this area and the enhancement of the country's economy on account of the future reduction in the import of magnesite.

Both the great leaders, Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma prioritized education. During Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s time, more colleges were opened in the private sector; in the Government sector also colleges were opened. Higher Education for students from poor families turns out to be a costlier matter as they have to go to private colleges and bright students from such families have to forego higher education. Hence, Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma opened more Government arts and science colleges so that all students could get the best higher education.

Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions on the lines of Amma is also opening more Government arts and science colleges. Keeping this in mind, the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Agriculture mentioned that in this year also 10 new Government arts and science colleges have been opened. The number of persons going in for higher education has increased in Tamil Nadu.

When Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the reins of administration as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2011, the higher education percentage in Tamil Nadu was 34 at the national level. Both Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and now Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions in the footsteps of Amma, have opened more colleges to create a situation in

which students from poor families go for higher education and as a result, today, Tamil Nadu is the premier State in higher education.

As a result of starting more number of colleges in Tamil Nadu, not merely Government arts and science colleges but engineering, polytechnic and IT colleges, the number of persons studying higher education has increased in the State. There is no precedent in Indian history of a State getting approval simultaneously for starting 11 Government medical colleges. Tamil Nadu made that historic achievement. By starting 11 Government medical colleges, we have created a situation at one go wherein 1,650 more students study medicine in the year 2021-2022. Till 2011 when Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the office of Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu, there were only 1,945 medical seats in Tamil Nadu. Steps taken by Hon'ble Amma and those by Hon'ble Amma's Government have resulted in more students – 3,600 – studying medicine with the approval of the Central Government. This should make people think about the extent to which our Government has taken efforts for students to take to higher studies, particularly medicine.

But some political leaders croak 'NEET' examination and 'NEET' examination always. Newspapers and media also raise the same question. But, to get the correct reply they are not directing the question at the right quarters. Who brought the NEET examination? It was brought by the Central Congress Government in which the DMK was a partner. But the Opposition is trying in vain to hide this obvious truth.

It was we, who were stopping the NEET examination through court battles. However, we were forced to implement NEET examination on the basis of a Supreme Court judgment. In an unavoidable situation, we have to conduct the NEET examination. In this situation, we thought about the plight of students from poor families. No Leader of the Opposition, no opposition parties or the general public placed any demand. We thought about how to solve the predicament. I thought over it. Though students from poor families clear the NEET examination, they are unable to enter medical colleges due to their inability to score high marks. ‘ ’ was a way out that flashed in my mind when I thought about the ways to help such students. We brought in 7.5 per cent reservation. Mostly, students from poor families study in Government schools. We have ordered and implemented 7.5 per cent reservation for Government school students. In our District alone, 21 students have joined medical colleges through the 7.5 per cent reservation; that too, the 21st student has joined the medical college by scoring 211 marks. This should make one ponder the extent to which Hon'ble Amma's Government has taken interest in the poor and marginalized people.

Last year, just six students from Government schools could get the opportunity to join a medical college. Of the 8,41,251, 12th standard students in Tamil Nadu, 41 per cent students are studying in Government schools. After passing the 12th standard public examination and NEET examination, those who participate in the counselling alone could get admission to medical college. In the 3,054 Government schools, 3,44,485 students are studying. This year, about 313 students got seats in medical college. So, I am happy to state that our Government has created a condition through the 7.5 per cent reservation even for students from poor families to study in medical college. Like this, Hon'ble Amma's Government, I wish to point out, has brought about many revolutions in the field of education.

Hon'ble Amma Government's excellent performance in water management, taken up with the ideal of not wasting even a single drop of water, fetched us in 2019-2020 a national award. Not only in this sector, but in many other fields, I am proud to say, our Government got national awards and achieved things. Through the water management programme, lakes, tanks and channels were all de-silted. Channels were modernized. We have created a condition for thrifty usage of water. Through this, Hon'ble Amma's Government has set up an unprecedented record procurement of 32 Lakh metric tonnes of paddy in Government procurement centres in delta Districts. In previous years, only 23

Lakh metric tonnes of paddy would be procured in Government procurement centres. Where is 23 Lakh metric tonnes and where is 32 Lakh metric tonnes? This should provoke the thought of the excellence of Hon'ble Amma's Government performance.

In a similar way, Corona virus infection spread remains controlled today. The opposition parties deliberately blamed (the Government), citing Delhi and Kerala. You can now see what is happening in Delhi and Kerala. But you refuse to do so. They charged, then, that Corona virus infection was more in Tamil Nadu compared to Delhi and Kerala. Today, the virus incidence is more in those places. Since Hon'ble Amma's Government took steps in the right direction, the Corona virus infection spread remains in control and is declining gradually. While other States have a higher incidence of the virus, it is declining in Tamil Nadu. There is 100 per cent activity in the agriculture sector. Industries also work with 100 per cent work force. The Government is taking stringent steps with positive results to return to normalcy.

The Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin can go to sleep daily only if he thinks of me. First, they said this Government would not last even for a week and the period was increased gradually to a month, six months and a year. Three years have rolled by and the fourth is now going on.

The AIADMK Government is functioning in an excellent manner. Only Tamil Nadu has achieved 8 per cent GDP. No other State has this distinction. Even in the pandemic period, new industries are coming to Tamil Nadu. From the month of March when the Corona virus broke out, till date, Tamil Nadu is the only State to have started more number of industries.

Tamil Nadu is capturing the premier place in all spheres like agriculture, industries, health and education. Thiru. Stalin, however, could not tolerate this. He thought that Palaniswami, being a villager, cannot achieve anything. We are accomplishing in every sector; bagging national awards. He is deliberately issuing statements to newspapers and media from a room. Has he come out even for a day? Even in his room, he is wearing gloves and spectacles. Will the virus seep in there? He is there all alone. We are all here together. So, the only movement that works for the people is All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the only Government, the AIADMK Government.

Barring four Districts, I have visited all the Districts in Tamil Nadu and collected details like the development works that are being executed and the progress of the Schemes announced by Hon'ble Amma's Government. As a result of the reviews conducted on the performance of the District Administration and Departments like Public Health and Revenue in Corona virus infection prevention works, instruction/ advice given for greater attention and for taking steps to prevent the virus spread, the Corona virus infection spread has been controlled and reduced in Tamil Nadu. Thiru. Stalin can be a 'Master of Statement' by issuing a statement every day but neither has he ever come forward to do good to the people nor have the people seen his rule. What good has the DMK rule done to the people? How many Schemes we have brought; how much people have benefited – these should be pondered over. It has become a routine for the Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin to deliberately slander the Government and publish in newspapers, calumnies against Ministers. Stop all this and convey constructive ideas to people. At least through this, try to sit in the opposition benches.

The AIADMK Government considers itself as a Government dedicated to the people. This is a movement created by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for doing good to the people. Pointing out that Hon'ble Amma's Government is functioning today on the path shown by these two great leaders and asserting that we are proving and will continue to prove that the AIADMK Government is the only Government that does good to the poor, marginalized and all sections of people, I take leave of you, thanking the District administration and the Higher Education Department for arranging this excellent function.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

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Corona curbed through increasing tests; many schemes implemented in the Nilgiris District

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and COVID-19 virus activities in the Nilgiris District on 06.11.2020.
(English Translation)

I bow before Goddess Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I convey my respects at the outset to all the participants in the on-going review meeting on Corona prevention works in the Nilgiris District and the implementation of schemes announced by the Hon'ble Amma's Government.

Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma added glory to the Nilgiris District during her rule in Tamil Nadu. She fulfilled the desires of the people of this District by launching and implementing many schemes. The name Nilgiris District reminds us only of Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. To that extent, she loved the people of the Nilgiris District. Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to function as a Government that fulfills the desires of the people of the Nilgiris District.

The Corona virus infection has been brought under control on account of the intensive actions specially taken continuously by Hon'ble Amma's Government. The number of persons affected by the virus is less than 2,500 now. Steps taken on the advice of the World Health Organization (WHO), Central Government Health Department and the team of medical experts in the initial stages, has not only controlled the spread of the virus infection but is reducing its incidence gradually. In the neighbouring States, the virus infection was at a low level in the beginning but has now increased. But in Tamil Nadu, the infection spread has come down due to the intensive efforts put in even at the initial stages.

Fever camps are held at various places to prevent the infection from spreading. Mobile medical teams and officials appointed by the Government visit every house, conduct tests on the inmates, admit those with symptoms in hospitals and cure them. Not only this; we have increased the number of tests on the people to find out the virus infection. Though the incidence of this infection has come down now, 70,000 tests

are being conducted daily on an average. We are preventing the virus infection from spreading through an increased number of RT-PCR tests.

Though there is a District Headquarters Hospital and there are different Government and private hospitals in the Nilgiris District, people here have to go to Coimbatore for advanced treatment. Taking this situation into account, Hon'ble Amma's Government announced the setting up of a Government medical college with a hospital, equipped to provide high-level treatment in the Nilgiris District, at a cost of Rs.447.32 Crore and construction works for it have started. This college will have an intake of 150 students. In this way, I am happy to state, Hon'ble Amma's Government has accomplished the long-standing demand of the people of this District to have a Government medical college and hospital.

Many development scheme works are being implemented in the Nilgiris District. To help the hill dwellers here, particularly the women, to start enterprises by way of self employment, financial assistance on a larger scale is given to women Self Help Groups (SHGs). A target of Rs.56 Crore was fixed as COVID-19 special loan for the year 2020-2021 and so far 861 women SHGs have received Rs.7.54 Crore. In the Nilgiris District, there are 8,247 women SHGs with a membership of 25,339. A target of Rs.225 Crore was fixed for disbursement of collateral loan to women SHGs in the financial year 2019-2020 and the target was fully realized. For the year 2020-2021, a target of Rs.281 Crore has been fixed and till now Rs.185 Crore has been given as collateral loan.

In the period 2015-2016 to 2018-2019, permission was granted, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) scheme, for 2,394 beneficiaries in Town Panchayat areas to build houses and works are going on. Under the scheme for construction of houses for scheduled tribes, steps have been taken to build 153 houses at an estimate of Rs.3.82 Crore. For scheduled tribe people in the Nilgiris District, an Industrial Training Institute has been started at an estimate of Rs.2.68 Crore. Through the Department of Local Administration, 1,794 houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs.44 Crore.

The total area of jenmi land is 80,088 acres. Jenmi land converted into forest land is 29,948 acres. Under the Forest Rights Act of 2006, lands in the Nilgiris District have been given to 1,663 persons residing in six scheduled tribe hamlets located in jenmi land and to 111 communities for their community rights also. For the Scheduled Tribes in jenmi lands, 1,317 houses have been constructed and handed over. Water supply schemes have been implemented. Electricity connection has also been provided. Forty-nine roads are being laid at an estimate of Rs.6.62 Crore. Private rights, numbering 295 have been given, under the Forest Rights Act 2006, in areas coming under the Mudumalai Tiger Sanctuary limits. Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes like these for the people of the Nilgiris District.

Likewise, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes in the industrial sector also. Steps are taken to give priority to the Department of micro, small and medium industrial enterprises in implementation. INDCOSERVE not only ensures the livelihood of small tea growers in the Nilgiris District but has also become the mainstay for the growth of the economy in this area. Through the NABARD scheme, a loan assistance of Rs.17.68 Crore will be raised to replace the damaged machinery in the INDCOSERVE factories in Kaikatti, Kundah, Manjur, Pandalur and Salisbury areas with new ones, upgrade those in operation and renovate and modernize the basic structures. Through replacement and modernization this enterprise will be further strengthened. Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes for micro and small farmers. I conclude my speech, saying that the Government will implement many more schemes like these in the Nilgiris District and act with focus to solve the problems of the people of this District gradually through them.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Development works in the Nilgiris District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open 67 completed scheme works valued at Rs. 189.35 Crore and laid foundation stones for 123 new scheme works to be executed at an estimate of Rs. 131.57 Crore, at a function held in Udhagamandalam, the Nilgiris District on 06.11.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** distributed Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries at a function held at Thamilagam Government Guest House Udhagamandalam, the Nilgiris District on 06.11.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P. Velumani, Member of Legislative Assembly, Coonoor Constituency, Thiru. A. Ramu, District Collector Tmt. J. Innocent Divya, I.A.S., Chairman, the Nilgiris District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. Thiru. Kappachi D. Vinoth and other high Government officials were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils centres for skill training in healthcare, logistics

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 04.11.2020, declared open the TN Apex Skill Development Centre for Healthcare at Guindy in Chennai, on behalf of the Labour and Employment Department and another Tamil Nadu Apex Skill Development Centre for logistics at IndoSpace Industrial Park in Oragadam in Kancheepuram District for the Logistics Division.

As a part of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme, Phase II, the State Government gave administrative sanction for the TN Apex Skill Development Centre for Healthcare project at a cost of Rs. 20 Crore on 50:50 basis with the co-operation of the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA). In continuation of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 04.11.2020 declared open the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Centre for Health at Guindy, with the equal share of Rupees One Crore by the Kauvery Hospital and the Skill Development Centre. This is a non-profit public-private tie-up.

This Skill Centre has world-class infrastructure facilities, with video conferencing hall, administrative offices, conference and internal meeting halls. The aim of the Centre is to provide higher-level training and Skill Technical Training to doctors, nurses, administrative staff and para-medical staff at all levels and assure them employment opportunities.

It is significant to point out that the World Health Organization (WHO) has joined hands with this skill development centre. With the prevailing COVID-19 virus spread in mind,

training lessons on this virus are to be started with the co-operation of WHO.

Administrative sanction has been given by the Tamil Nadu Government for setting up the TN Apex Skill Development Centre for Logistics, as part of the Second Phase of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme at a cost of Rs. 20 Crore. This non-profit private-public participation project on a 50:50 basis with the co-operation of the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Apex Skill Development Centre for Logistics at IndoSpace Industrial Park at Oragadam in Kancheepuram District. This is a non-profit centre with the equal participation of Rupees One Crore by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Centre on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government and the Logistic Sector Skill Council's share of Rupees One Crore. This centre will impart world class training for workers involved in the logistics sector.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed for a Multi-purpose Skill Development Centre at Vaniyambadi.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the inauguration of Thirupattur District on 28.11.2020 announced that a Multi-Purpose Skill Development Centre for developing the Leather processing industry will be formed at Vaniyambadi.

As per the announcement, an MoU was signed between the Central Footwear Training Institute Centre and the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Centre for setting up a Skill Development Corporation at Vaniyambadi at a cost of Rs.20.37 Crore in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

News in Picture

100th birth anniversary of Kavignar Suratha

The 100th birth anniversary of Kavignar Suratha was celebrated on November 23rd on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation, Tmt. B.Valarmathi and Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru. D. Baskara Pandian I.A.S., paid floral tributes to the portrait of Kavignar Suratha kept near his statue at Ashok Nagar in Chennai on 23.11.2020.

Tiruppur District to get Rs.336.96 Crore medical college hospital; veterinary college at Pannaikinar

Excerpts from the speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** at the review meeting on the progress of developmental schemes and COVID-19 virus activities in Tiruppur District, on 06.11.2020. *(English Translation)*

Tiruppur District is an industrially developed District; a foreign exchange earner. This District is known for its knitting and vest production industries. There are a large number of migrant workers among those working in these factories. When the Corona virus infection broke out, these workers expressed a desire to the Government to return to their native States and we sent them safely through trains and buses. As the virus spread is reducing gradually and these workers wished to take up work in Tamil Nadu again, we are taking steps to bring them back.

We took care of the migrant workers well during the prevalence of the virus infection by providing accommodation, immediate treatment to the affected persons and all necessary facilities like supply of rice, dhal and oil at no cost at their place of residence itself. I selected the place of stay for them personally. As far as Hon'ble Amma's Government is

concerned, I wish to point out that the welfare of all the factory workers was protected during the outbreak of the virus.

I am also happy to inform you that construction works have started on the setting up of a Government medical college and hospital at Tiruppur at a cost of Rs.336.96 Crore, after it was announced in deference to the requests consistently made by the Hon'ble Minister and MLAs from this District.

There is a large percentage of farmers in this District and they foster livestock. Acceding to the demand for a veterinary college for treating these livestock when they fall sick, Hon'ble Amma's Government has finalized a tender for setting up a college at Pannaikinar village in Udumalpet constituency at a cost of Rs.85 Crore. A college will come up there shortly.

Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma wished to implement during her lifetime itself the dream scheme of the people of this District – the Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme. To carry out Amma's promise, the scheme works are currently being carried out at an estimate of Rs.1,652 Crore. I wish to state that through this project arid Tiruppur District will be transformed into a thriving place.

We propose to turn Tiruppur Corporation area into a smart city at a cost of Rs.948 Crore with Central and State Government assistance. The scheme envisages (among other things) a new bus stand, a multi-level car parking facility and a convention centre; steps are being taken for constructing an integrated commercial complex for the sale of vegetables and fruits. Three parks have been declared open today. Tiruppur city has been made beautiful in this way. Works like these are executed to make Tiruppur a smart city. When these works are completed, this city will develop further.

Moreover, the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board has taken up Drinking Water Development Scheme works at an estimate of Rs.258 Crore in the added areas of Tiruppur Corporation and at present a trial run is being conducted. Also, the new water supply scheme works, undertaken at a cost of Rs.1,120 Crore under the 'Amrut' scheme with Asia Development Bank's assistance, are being carried out in a full-fledged manner. As such, Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps to supply protected water to people in Tiruppur city and its suburbs.

The mascot of Kangeyam is the bull. In its remembrance and by way of fulfilling the request of Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, a statue of Kangeyam bull will be erected near the Police Station roundtana in Kangeyam town.

Udumalpet Municipality has a history of over 100 years. I am happy to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government will give Rs. 50 Crore as a special fund for developing the basic needs of Udumalpet like water supply, street lights, roads, underground drainage, bus stands, parks, tanks, Anganwadi centres and Municipal service centres.

Many such schemes are being implemented in Tiruppur District. It is an industrially developed District and a District with a high population of farmers. It is the only District that has combined these two. I conclude my speech, saying that Hon'ble Amma's Government will protect as eyes these two sectors and stand by them to ensure their prosperity.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

News in pictures

Development works in Tiruppur District

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open 18 completed scheme works valued at Rs. 31.68 Crore and laid foundation stones for 12 new scheme works to be executed at an estimate of Rs. 287.39 Crore, at a function held in District Collectorate, Tiruppur on 06.11.2020.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** distributed Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries at a function held at District Collectorate, Tiruppur on 06.11.2020. Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P. Velumani, Hon’ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan, Hon’ble Deputy Speaker Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman, MLAs, District Collector Dr. K. Vijayakarthikeyan, I.A.S., and other High Government Officials were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister hands over three recovered idols for worship in Ananthamangalam temple

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** handed over the recovered antique idols of Sri Ramar, Seethai and Lakshmanar, stolen from the temple in 1978, for restoration of worship to the Executive Officer of Arulmigu Sri Rajagopalaswami temple at Ananthamangalam Village, Tharangambadi Taluk, Nagapattinam District, on 20.11.2020. The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the Idol Wing Police of Tamil Nadu which traced and brought back the idols.

The Arulmigu Sri Rajagopalaswami temple at Ananthamangalam Village was built during the times of the Vijayanagar Empire. As per Puranas, Sri Rama commissioned Hanuman, while returning to Ayodhya after the war in Lanka, to kill Rakthabindu and Raktharakshakan, belonging to the lineage of the Rakshasas of Ravana and Hanuman accomplished the task with 10 types of weapons given to him by the Devas. Then Hanuman gave darshan in this temple on his way back to Ayodhya, with the happiness of having won the war.

On 23.11.1978, the idols of Sri Ramar, Seethai, Lakshmanar and Hanumar were stolen from this temple. Through the strenuous efforts of the Idol Wing Police, the Sri Ramar, Seethai and Lakshmanar idols were traced in London. At the guidance of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the idols were handed over to the Indian High Commissioner in London and later to the Archaeological Department of the Central Government in New Delhi. Hon'ble Chief Minister saw these idols 20.11.2020, handed them over to the Executive Officer of the temple and congratulated the officials of the Idol Wing Police.

Tamil Nadu beats Cyclone Nivar, keeps COVID down with manifold measures

Inaugural speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the review meeting with all the District Collectors through video conferencing at the Secretariat, Chennai on 28.11.2020, on the measures taken continuously by various Departments for preventing the Corona virus spread and protecting the people. (English Translation)

My grateful respects to all of you.

A consultative meeting was held under my chairmanship as a precautionary measure when Cyclone Nivar formed recently. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble senior Ministers, the Chief Secretary to Government, DGP and officers of various Departments participated and instructions were given about the precautionary measures to be taken when the cyclone crosses the coast.

As a result of the Chief Secretary's advice to the District Collectors to follow without fail the procedures and advice given by the Government, any great loss of life or material by Cyclone Nivar was averted. I wish to convey my gratitude to the Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Legislature, high officials and the District Collectors who were helpful in taking excellent measures. I wish to point out that implementation of correct procedures and the right precautionary measures was instrumental in safeguarding the people from any damage.

The Government saw to it that people in low-lying areas did not suffer any damage by moving them to Government-run camps and providing them with all facilities. I too visited the affected areas. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister and Ministers from various District directly provided the needed assistance to people. Besides, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister remained at the round-the-clock Control Room, informed us about the prevailing situation instantly and advised the people on how to remain safe. Through this, we have averted any great loss of life or property. I once again convey my gratitude to all those who have helped in this.

At the same, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister informed us, as soon as he learned that the cyclone would hit Tamil Nadu, that he would give all assistance and dispatch the required number of relief teams to the State. He did dispatch them. Last night, around 9 pm. the Hon'ble Prime Minister called me and enquired about the damages caused by the cyclone. He also assured that the Central Government would provide the required assistance. We are happy over the assurances of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Union Home Minister regarding assistance to the affected people.

Vellore and Ranipet received very heavy rains when the cyclone moved towards Andhra Pradesh. The very heavy rain in Andhra flooded the Pennaiyaru, Palaru and Koundinya Mahanadhi there and through them water is coming into our State. The arrival of excess water was also deftly handled by the District Collectors concerned, averting any loss to the people; I thank them on behalf of the Government.

To help the people living in low-lying areas in Chennai, the Government has swung into action in a full-fledged manner. Considering the water logging at Velachery, Mudichur, Varadarajapuram and Tambaram areas, I have instructed officials to devise appropriate schemes for finding a permanent solution for this. At present, Government officers are engaged in pumping out the stagnant water in those areas on a war footing and in Greater Chennai Corporation and in the Districts of Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur.

I have instructed grant of appropriate relief to farmers from Disaster Relief Fund after proper assessment of crop damages due to the Cyclone Nivar and to get compensation to those farmers who have registered under the crop insurance scheme. Likewise, relief assistance has been announced by the Government for the families of those who had died in the cyclone. Due compensation will also be given to those who have lost their live stock.

The 'India Today' magazine has announced that Tamil Nadu has come first among the big States in best performance consecutively for three years after undertaking a survey. It has given us awards for inclusive development and for best overall performance. Tamil Nadu has come first because of the collective efforts of Hon'ble Ministers, Government high officials and Government employees. At this hour, I convey my thanks to all those who have toiled for getting these awards.

After the detection of Corona virus in China in December 2019, Hon'ble Amma's Government took many precautionary measures. Procurement orders were issued and as a precautionary measure, medicines and medical appliances like N95 face masks, three-fold face masks and PPE equipment were kept ready. Along with this, 12 co-ordination committees with senior I.A.S., Officers were formed and tasks were assigned; due to the excellent actions of the I.A.S., Officers in these teams, we continue to be in the forefront without any slump in the State's growth. They are also helpful in the reduction of Corona virus spread. I thank them also. We also formed a medical experts team. As we took the precautionary measures on the advice of this team, Corona virus spread came down and today we have brought it under control.

Review meetings with all District Collectors were held 12 times under my leadership through video conferencing, to consider Corona virus prevention works and the performance of the schemes announced by Hon'ble Amma's Government; likewise, review meetings were held with medical experts 10 times. Review meetings with all District Collectors, headed by the Chief Secretary to Government were held through video conferencing 13 times. Since, we have held consultative meetings like these every month, conveyed to the District Administration the advice of the medical experts and its implementation by the District Administration, corona virus spread is under control in Tamil Nadu. The general lockdown was enforced with required relaxations carefully and safely after examining the views expressed by the District Collectors and Government Officials.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has allotted enough funds for controlling COVID infections and for treatment and relief works. So far, Rs.7,525.71 Crore has been spent towards this. The Corona virus spread is under control due to manifold measures such as distribution of 'kabasura kudineer' in containment zones, spraying of disinfectants both morning and evening, taking up conservancy works and collection of samples for Corona testing through mobile collection vans. The virus spread has been brought down through the continuous monitoring, as per the recommendation of the team of medical experts, of vulnerable people like those affected with blood pressure, heart disease, renal complications and diseases like cancer, pregnant women, children and senior citizens through house-to-house inspection by field workers and admitting the infected persons in hospital, treating and curing them.

So far, 5,22,530 fever camps have been conducted in Tamil Nadu and 2,79,36,147 have participated and benefited. Of these, 11,46,363 persons were found to have fever. The camps have helped to identify persons with symptoms of the infection. House to house distribution of pamphlets containing needed advice to persons with morbidity has also contributed to reduce this virus spread.

While the medical related expenditure to identify the Corona-affected persons is Rs.1,983 Crore, that related to relief operations is

Rs. 5,389 Crore. Serial fever camps, identification of persons with fever and virus infection symptoms through house-to-house visit and measures taken continuously like RT-PCR testing, isolation and treatment have gradually brought down the virus infection spread today.

In Tamil Nadu, 220 testing laboratories are functioning – 67 in Government sector and 153 in private sector. Only Hon'ble Amma's Government has set up so many laboratories in the whole of India. Till now, the number of persons subjected to RT-PCR test is 1.18 Crore; per day testing is about 70,000 – the maximum touched is 95,000. Such large scale RT-PCR testing has brought down the virus spread. We have received information that no other State has done such large scale testing. Of the total number of tests conducted, 76 per cent has been done in Government laboratories. Though other States have a lower number of tests, Tamil Nadu has not reduced its number of testing and continues its testing with full gusto till now.

During the intensive phase of the Corona virus, the Government was particular that people did not have any difficulty in getting essential articles like food articles and vegetables by arranging house to house supply through the officials of the Departments of Agriculture and Local Administration.

The Government has kept 1,41,527 beds ready in COVID hospitals and COVID special centres at the State-level for treating the affected persons; of these, 34,714 beds have oxygen facility and 7,697 have ICU facility. The number of ventilators kept ready is 6,517.

To provide special treatment for COVID infection, 15,000 additional medical personnel – doctors, nurses and other medical staff – have been appointed and arrangements have been made to give the appropriate treatment.

Life-saving high potency medicines have been procured and enough stocks have been kept in hospitals at District level. Most essential and life-saving medicines, like Tocilizumab 400 mg, Remdesvir 100 mg and Enoxaparin 40 mg have been additionally procured and dispatched to all Government hospitals for special treatment to the COVID disease. The Government is taking steps to continue to procure medicines, testing tools, N95 face masks, PPE kits, three-fold face masks, CT scan and X-ray equipment for giving appropriate treatment to the patients.

Zinc and vitamin tablets continue to be supplied to all the field workers and residents in containment zones. For disease management in an integrated way, Ayush treatment – distribution of Siddha system medicine 'kabasura' kudineer water to a large number of people to increase immunity – is also undertaken along with treatment through Allopathic medicine.

I am happy to inform you that 2,000 mini clinics – manned by a doctor, a nurse and an assistant – will be opened all over Tamil Nadu before December 15.

Some of the measures undertaken by Hon'ble Amma's Government in Greater Chennai Corporation are deputing Ministers and special officers and appointing additional field workers in every zone, holding fever camps, distribution of reusable face masks in areas with indigent people, creating isolation facility in Government centres without such facilities and distribution of cash relief of Rs.1,000.

The Koyambedu wholesale market was shifted to Thirumazhisai and brought back to Koyambedu after the virus spread started reducing gradually.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister not only learnt about the steps taken in Tamil Nadu to control the virus infection through video conferencing but also applauded the State as the best State in the whole country to have undertaken prevention works in an excellent way against the spread of the Corona virus. He also informed us that Tamil Nadu continues to be a model to other States. I convey my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Penalty for not wearing face masks and non-observance of Government's announcement in festival seasons and in events like marriage, also contributed to the reduction of virus spread. The infection spread in many other States is increasing due to the slackening of these efforts. The severe action taken by Government of Tamil Nadu, implementation of the announcements of Hon'ble Amma's Government by the District administration in a proper way and the co-operation extended by the general public brought down the virus infection spread. The Government is taking appropriate measures to bring it down further and restore normalcy. I affectionately request the people repeatedly to

give full co-operation for this. Only people's full co-operation can control this virus spread fully and bring back normalcy.

Though the virus infection spread has been reduced due to the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government, restoration of normalcy will take some time. The number of persons affected by the virus infection so far is 7,77,616; those who have been cured and sent back to their homes – 7,54,826; under treatment at present – 11,109; mortality rate is 1.5%. I affectionately request proper observance of the standard operating procedures regarding COVID infection treatment in Government and private hospitals.

Supply of the needed essential commodities through fair price shops saved people from any anxiety on this score. All family card holders were given Rs.1,000 each. Hon'ble Amma's Government gave Rs.2,000 in the months of April and May to 35.65 Lakh workers in 17 welfare boards for the unorganized sector, 14 welfare boards and match factories and Rs.1,000 to 13.35 Lakh differently abled persons.

At the time of the outbreak of the Corona virus itself, food was supplied to 8 Lakh persons daily through Amma's canteen. It is Hon'ble Amma's Government that removed the hunger of the poor through Amma canteen in that difficult period. On behalf of the Government, I thank all the employees in the Amma canteens for this.

Likewise, we supplied food, prepared through community kitchens also. We arranged home delivery of food to old age people, differently abled persons and patients. I wish to inform you that Hon'ble Amma's Government was a Good Samaritan to people in such a testing time.

Now, mobile canteens have been commissioned in Chennai and they are supplying food to the poor in their own areas. I wish to State that 3 vehicles are operating for this work.

Fifty-five new Memoranda of Understanding were signed even in the distressful Corona period to keep the industrial sector of Tamil Nadu in an excellent position. Through these MoUs, we have attracted Rs. 40,718 Crore investment and have taken steps to provide jobs for 74,212 youths.

As I have already mentioned, we continue to be the premier State in India and have earned the encomiums of the Hon'be Prime Minister who has advised other States to function like Tamil Nadu.

I thank the Secretary of the Industries Department and other officials for sparing no efforts to bring new industries to Tamil Nadu to create job opportunities for people even in this testing time.

I congratulate the Central Government for its initiative to provide loan assistance to the MSME to help those industries flourish. Through its credit scheme for its own MSME also, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have received loans.

Bank credit to the tune of Rs.11,620 Crore was given to 3 Lakh women Self Help Groups in the Corona period also. Through this, we have improved the economic condition of women from ordinary poor families by lending them money to start their own ventures.

For the sixth time, Tamil Nadu occupies the premier place in organ transplantation surgery. We have been awarded for that. For this feat, I wish to convey my whole-hearted appreciation and thanks to the Hon'ble Health Minister, the Department Secretary, and all the doctors and medical staff who have worked with him.

The Central Government has given us the National Award for our very excellent performance in water management at the national level. This shows that the Government of Tamil Nadu is at the forefront in water management. For this achievement, I wish to convey, at this hour, my whole-hearted appreciation and thanks to the Secretary to the Department of Public Works, engineers and all other Government servants who toiled with him.

As far as Hon'ble Amma's Government is concerned, we have gradually reduced the virus infection spread through our measures taken to prevent it and brought it under control. We now see that the number of virus-afflicted persons is less than 1,500. The mortality rate is very, very low. I conclude my speech, expressing my hearty thanks to all High Officials of Government who have been supportive of the action taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government and to the general public who have co-operated. Nandri! Vanakkam!

60:40 sharing pattern sought between Centre and State in Post Matric scholarship scheme

Text of the D.O. letter dated 03.12.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi.**

I would like to bring to your kind attention an urgent and vital issue concerning the State of Tamil Nadu; namely, the concept of application of Committed Liability in releasing funds under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to the State.

Earlier the expenditure under the scheme at the end of each five year plan period was taken as the committed liability of the State for the next five year plan period. Although the practice of 5 year planning was given up after the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017), the earlier practice of re-fixing the State's Committed Liability at the end of five years has been continued. As a result, the committed liability of Tamil Nadu which was Rs.353.55 Crore in 2012-2013, with effect from 2017-2018, has risen to Rs.1526.46 Crore. As a result, although the State spent Rs.1,689.34 Crore on the scheme in 2017-2018, Rs. 1,910.19 Crore in 2018-2019 and Rs. 2,005.70 Crore in 2019-2020, it received only Rs. 162.88 Crore, Rs.383.73 Crore and Rs.479.24 Crore respectively as the Central share for these years. In this year (2020-2021), for a total expected expenditure of Rs.2,110.90 Crore, Tamil Nadu will be eligible to receive only Rs. 584.44 crore as Central share. This has placed an extremely high burden on the State Government's finances. It also results in a situation, where what is really a Central Sector scheme will be largely funded by the State's from their own resources.

Therefore, it is requested that in line with other Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme may be funded with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the States. Sir, I had already addressed this issue to you in my earlier letters dated 30.05.2018, 14.06.2018 and 27.01.2019.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly issue suitable directions to the Ministry of Social Justice to restructure the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme with a sharing pattern of 60:40 basis between the Centre and the States.

News in Picture

139th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar

The 139th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar was celebrated on December 11th on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. B. Valarmathi and Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S. paid floral tributes to the portrait of Bharathiyar placed near his statue at Marina Beach, Chennai on 11.12.2020.

December 11 - Birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar

To The Mind

Never will the past return!
Thinking always of the past,
Fall not, O fools, in the destructive
Pit of grief and care! Forget,
Forget what's past. Hold steadfastly
The faith that you are born anew
Each day. Eat, Play, be happy, live!
All evil will vanish and never come back!

-Subramania Bharati (Chosen Poems and Prose)
Translated by K. Swaminathan

Industries Department signs MoU with SIDBI for fillip to MSMEs through cluster development fund

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020 between the Department of Industries and Commerce and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for developing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the state by utilizing the bank's cluster development fund (SCDF)fund.

There are about 22.69 Lakh MSME industries in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs.2.57 Crore and providing jobs for 1.45 Crore persons. On account of the efficiency and visionary policies of Hon'ble Amma's Government, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in many manufacturing fields like automobile vehicles and spare parts, textiles, hides and leather products, machinery, computer and electronic appliances, engineering goods, chemicals, rubber, plastic, food processing and electrical gadgets. At the national level, MSME industries contribution in GDP is 29.70 per cent and in exports 49.66 per cent.

To encourage such an important industrial sector further, an MoU was signed between the Department of Industries and Commerce and SIDBI on 24.11.2020. This agreement includes a 3-year integrated action-plan for creating a favourable environment for the growth of MSME industries. Also, SIDBI, through this agreement, will help utilization of its cluster development fund to provide loans

to needy MSME industries. This will facilitate availability of micro funds all over the State and improvement of the efficiency of MSME industries.

Moreover, the MoU will help the MSME industries in quality enhanced innovative products at low manufacturing cost through technology exchange, innovation development, intellectual property rights, research and development so that they can compete in the global supply chain.

The offices of the Regional Joint Director of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Guindy, Chennai functioning under the Industries Commissioner and the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, the General Manager of the District Industrial Centre, Coimbatore and that of the General Manager of the District Industrial Centre, Madurai have been awarded ISO 9001: 2015 certificates. These certificates were shown to Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin. The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the Minister. ■

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** launched the mobile application 'Thee' (fire) on behalf of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020 and handed over a tablet PC with the 'Thee' app to Thiru. M.S. Jaffar Sait I.P.S., DGP/Director of Fire and Rescue Services, as a mark of distributing 371 tablet PCs to all the Fire and Rescue Services stations and to the Fire Control Room at Chennai.

142nd birth anniversary of Mootharignar Rajaji

In connection with the 142nd birth anniversary of Mootharignar Rajaji, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K. Pandiarajan and Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations, Thiru. D. Baskara Pandian I.A.S. paid floral tributes to the portrait of Rajaji, placed near his statue at Parrys, Chennai on 10.12.2020.

December 10 - Birth anniversary of Mootharignar Rajaji

I Meet Rajaji

When Rajaji had said 'no' to me in Delhi, I had been fairly certain that he had really meant 'yes'.

After a month or so in Madras, I was much less sure. It was very difficult to persuade him to talk about himself.

'I have often', he said one day, 'been asked to write my autobiography, but I have always refused.'

'That', I told him, 'is very wrong'

'No. It is absolutely right. I don't like autobiographies. One cannot help trying to show oneself in good light. And self-adulation is disgusting. Even biographies which are written by admirers are generally much too reverential in tone. Of course with a biography of a really great man- such as Abraham Lincoln - one can discount the adulation and get a fair picture. Usually one can't. No, biographies and autobiographies ought not be written.'

It was a week or so after this that I found that a biography of Rajaji already existed. It was a very short book, published

soon after he had taken office as Governor-General. The author had described his difficulties with a good deal of pathos and a generous sprinkling of italics. 'I must confess', he wrote in his preface, 'I could get no help whatsoever from anyone to write such a well- documented volume of the kind that I have in mind. I know, even Rajaji himself would not spare me the necessary time to be of some help in a mission of that kind, even if I approached him…. I wish to make it plain here that this is in no sense an authorized biography. I happened to be an admirer, just an admirer, who at the same time is not blind to some of his shortcomings in politics. In brief, I have done this work without any bias, and it is a very difficult job for any author to do, especially when he tackles the life of a living person.' He had, however, evidently been to some pains to collect facts from people who had known Rajaji in his early life.

'Is it true', I asked Rajaji the next time I went to see him, 'that you were a very studious child?'

He laughed. 'Whoever told you the story?'

I repeated what I had read. The infant Rajagopalachari, his biographer had written, had been an industrious student from his fifth year, when he was first sent to school. If he came across the prospectus of an insurance company, he would read it and ask his father to tell the meaning of each word to him. Whenever he was given a few annas, he would spend the money on books. After sunset each day, he would sit in a corner of his father's house in Hosur, studying his lessons for two or three hours.

There was a broad grin on Rajaji's face as he listened to all his, 'The truth', he remarked when I had finished, 'is exactly the opposite.'

'Really?'

'Yes, really. Why don't you believe me? I suppose this poor man decided to write a book about me because he wanted to make a little money; and the people who gave him this information no doubt thought that if a man achieves a certain fame it is proper to talk of him as if he had been a prodigy from infancy. Besides, people who tell such stories feel they acquire some glory for themselves by boasting of their prescience in recognizing talent before it becomes visible to the rest of world.'

'Where did you go to school?

'In my village, of course. Then to middle school at Hosur, and after that, as you no doubt read in my biography' – he was still grinning – 'to the Central Hindu College at Bangalore.'

'Where your guru was Tait?'

He stared. 'Guru' Who used that word?'

'I read it in an article which your friend Mr. Navaratna Rama Rao wrote in Swarajya for your last birthday.' Swarajya was an English language weekly to which Rajaji contributed regularly. The editor, Mr. Khasa Subba Rau, was a close friend of Rajaji, and at this time I was spending several afternoons each week in his office, going through the files of the paper and listening to stories about Rajaji and discussions of Madras politics.

'Mr. Tait', Rajaji said, 'was my English teacher. I suppose you want to know about him so that you can write and ask him questions about me. But he is dead, so you can't. If he were alive now he would be ninety-six.' I found out afterwards that from the time of Mr. Tait's retirement until his death, Rajaji, who disapproves of smoking only a little less intensely than he does of drinking, used to send a pound of the finest Indian pipe tobacco to Mr. Tait's home in Scotland every month. Each time he went to jail he arranged for someone else to post the parcels for him, and even during the most stringent years of the war they were still sent. This was not the sort of thing Rajaji would ever tell about himself, and if I had asked him whether it was true, he would almost certainly have denied it. 'His full name', he went on, 'was John Guthrie Tait and he was a brother of P.G. Tait, the eminent physicist.'

-From Monica Felton's biography

Video conferencing facility launched for 16 Juvenile Justice Boards to conduct cases

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** inaugurated on behalf of the Department of Social Defence, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020, video conferencing facilities at 23 places at a cost of Rs.2,60,65,000 for 16 Juvenile Justice Boards to conduct trials involving juveniles staying in six Government observation homes and places identified by the Government under the scheme for welfare of children in need of care and protection.

In a statement made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 11.07.2019, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced: "At present, juveniles staying in Government observation homes have to be taken to the Juvenile Justice Boards concerned for each hearing and brought back. Already, Juvenile Justice Boards in Eight Districts have been connected with observation homes and hearing of the cases is conducted with the inmates through video conferencing. Connecting the remaining six Government observation homes in the Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, Cuddalore, Coimbatore and Madurai with their respective Juvenile Justice Boards in 16 Districts to facilitate video conferencing trials, will now be taken up through the ELCOT establishment."

Accordingly, video conferencing facilities were set up at Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Karur, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, the Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Erode, Dindigul, Theni, Kanniyakumari and Thoothukudi for the 16 Juvenile Justice Boards, six Government observation homes at Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, Cuddalore, Coimbatore and Madurai and at the Government protection home at Vellore, for conducting trials. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this facility. Because of this step, time will be saved as there will be no need to take the juveniles in observation homes and Government protection homes to the Juvenile Justice Boards, the cases can be disposed off quickly and safety lapses during travel can be averted.

Right of way Portal to deliver services to the Telecom Service Provider / Internet provider

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** launched at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.11.2020 a website *https://row.tn.gov.in* to facilitate grant of permission for right of way for information technology infrastructure. The website has been developed by ELCOT, functioning under the Information Technology Department Government of Tamil Nadu.

By way of regularizing the setting up of cell phone towers across the country, the Central Government issued the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules – 2016 for grant of permission for right of way. For quick clearance of permission for right of way for setting up of these towers in Tamil Nadu as per Central Government rules, ELCOT has developed this new portal.

Through this website, Telecommunication and Infrastructure provider companies can register all required documents and also submit applications for grant of permission for right of way. The applications will be examined by the District Collectors concerned and as for Chennai, by the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and permission will be granted, after payment of the application fee, through the Internet itself. As email and SMS facilities are attached to this portal, the applicant companies can know the current state of their applications.

Further, application-related lapses can be speedily corrected through the Grievance Redressal section of this website; the telecommunication and infrastructure provider companies can access the Government easily and get permission for the right of way and thus strengthen the information technology infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.

from 1974 April -16 "Tamilarasu" Issue...

தமிழரசு

மலர் 5. 16·9·1974 இதழ் 6

தமிழ் மொழியின் அருமையும் பெருமையும்

தமிழ் மொழியின் அருமையை ரஷ்ய நாட்டினரும், செக்கோஸ்லாவிய நாட்டினரும் உணர்ந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இங்கே அது சரிவர உணரப்படவில்லை. இங்கிலாந்துப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில் தமிழ் ஆராயப்படுகிறது என்று அறியும் நேரத்தில் அத்தகைய தமிழுக்கு நாம் சொந்தக்காரர்கள் என்கின்றபோது நமது நினைவு எங்கோ செல்கிறது. எங்கோ நம் நினைவு செல்கிறது என்று கூறினேனே, அந்தத் திருவிடத்திற்கு நாம் நிச்சயம் செல்வோம். இங்கிலாந்திலிருந்தும், பிற நாடுகளிலிருந்தும் வருகிற நிபுணர்கள் தமிழ் மொழி மிக அருமையான மொழி என்று கூறுகிற நேரத்தில் அதன்மீது நமக்குப் பற்று, பாசம் ஏற்படாமல் எப்படி இருக்கும்? அத்தகைய மொழிக்கு எந்தக் காலத்திலாவது-எந்த நோக்குடனாவது —எப்படிப்பட்டவர்களிடமிருந்தாவது தனி மரியாதை கிடைக்கவில்லையென்றால் அதைத் தமிழகம் பொறுத்துக் கொள்ளாது.

—பேரறிஞர் அண்ணா

Tamil Nadu creates record by bagging organ donation award for sixth time

Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,
on 28.11.2020.
(English Translation)

I am happy over the selection of Tamil Nadu as the premier State in organ donation at the 11th National Organ Donation Day held on 27.11.2020 and over the presentation of the award for it by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

I am happy that Tamil Nadu has received this award for the sixth time in a row. The statement of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare that Tamil Nadu continues to be the premier State not only in organ donation but also in the health sector as a model for other States, gives an impetus to the doctors, nurses and other health workers engaged in medical service.

The bilateral hand cadaveric successful transplantation, performed on 07.02.2018 at the Stanley Hospital on Thiru. Narayanaswami of Dindigul, who had lost both his hands due to electrocution, deserves to be applauded. It is to be noted that this surgery was the first of its kind to have been performed in a Government hospital in the whole of India.

Organ transplantation surgery is done to the poor at no cost in Government and private hospitals. A maximum of Rs.25 Lakh is given for this surgery through the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.

Also, immune suppressants needed for the patients who have undergone transplantation surgery, are supplied free of cost. So far, 8,245 organs have been received from 1,392 donors in Tamil Nadu.

More than 3,005 students, boys and girls, participated in an event to create awareness about organ donation held at a private college in Chennai and more than 12,000 persons took part in an awareness marathon on organ donation held at Pudukkottai. These records have found a place in the Guinness World record and Asian record books respectively. Through such activities, Tamil Nadu remains a forerunner in creating awareness about organ donation. Through such activities, Tamil Nadu is turning organ donation into a people's movement.

During the COVID-19 pandemic period also, the Government headed by me set up a record by creating special rules and regulations and getting 97 organs from 27 donors in Tamil Nadu and carried on organ transplantation surgeries uninterruptedly.

On this occasion, I affectionately convey my heartfelt gratitude to Government and private doctors and to all health workers who have been always supportive in getting the premier State award from the Central Government for the sixth consecutive time in organ donation in India.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets Hon'ble Prime Minister on new Parliament building

Text of the D.O. letter dated 10.12.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi.**

I congratulate you, Sir, for laying the foundation stone for construction of a new Parliament Building as part of the iconic Central Vista project in New Delhi. I am confident that this will be a land mark structure in Independent India.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you for your personal touch in shaping the project. I had the pleasure of taking part in the function through video conference.

Public Holidays for the year 2021

Under the "Explanation" to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Central Act XXVI of 1881) read with Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, No.20-25-26, Public-1, dated the 8th June 1957, the Government of Tamil Nadu hereby declares, that in addition to "Sundays" expressly defined as Public Holidays in the said "Explanation" the following days shall be Public Holidays for the year 2021.

ANNEXURE

SI.No	Public Holidays	Date	Day
1.	New Year's Day	01.01.2021	Friday
2.	Pongal	14.01.2021	Thursday
3.	Thiruvalluvar Day	15.01.2021	Friday
4.	Uzhavar Thirunal	16.01.2021	Saturday
5.	Republic Day	26.01.2021	Tuesday
6.	*Annual closing of Accounts for Commercial Banks & Co-operative Banks	01.04.2021	Thursday
7.	Good Friday	02.04.2021	Friday
8.	Telugu New Year's Day	13.04.2021	Tuesday
9.	Tamil New Year's Day and Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's Birthday	14.04.2021	Wednesday
10.	Mahaveer Jayanthi	25.04.2021	Sunday
11.	May Day	01.05.2021	Saturday
12.	Ramzan (Idul Fitr)	14.05.2021	Friday
13.	Bakrid (Idul Azha)	21.07.2021	Wednesday
14.	Independence Day	15.08.2021	Sunday
15.	Muharram	20.08.2021	Friday
16.	Krishna Jayanthi	30.08.2021	Monday
17.	Vinayakar Chathurthi	10.09.2021	Friday
18.	Gandhi Jayanthi	02.10.2021	Saturday
19.	Ayutha Pooja	14.10.2021	Thursday
20.	Vijaya Dasami	15.10.2021	Friday
21.	Milad-un-Nabi	19.10.2021	Tuesday
22.	Deepavali	04.11.2021	Thursday
23.	Christmas	25.12.2021	Saturday

*Applicable only to Commercial Banks and Co-operative Banks in Tamil Nadu.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, on his way to a Government function on 04.12.2020, visited the Tamukkam Grounds in Madurai and saw a model of the scheme to provide drinking water to Madurai city from Mullai Periyar lower camp.

Tamilarasu

R.N.I. No. 21445/70 Regn. No. TN/CCN/642/18-20

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** during his official visit to Thoothukudi on 11.11.2020 received a petition from a differently abled woman waiting on the road side. After careful and sympathetic consideration, the Hon'ble Chief Minister gave the appointment order to that person immediately at the District Collector's Office.

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